

*Thomas Mitchell, Pioneer*

*Iowa Community Builder*

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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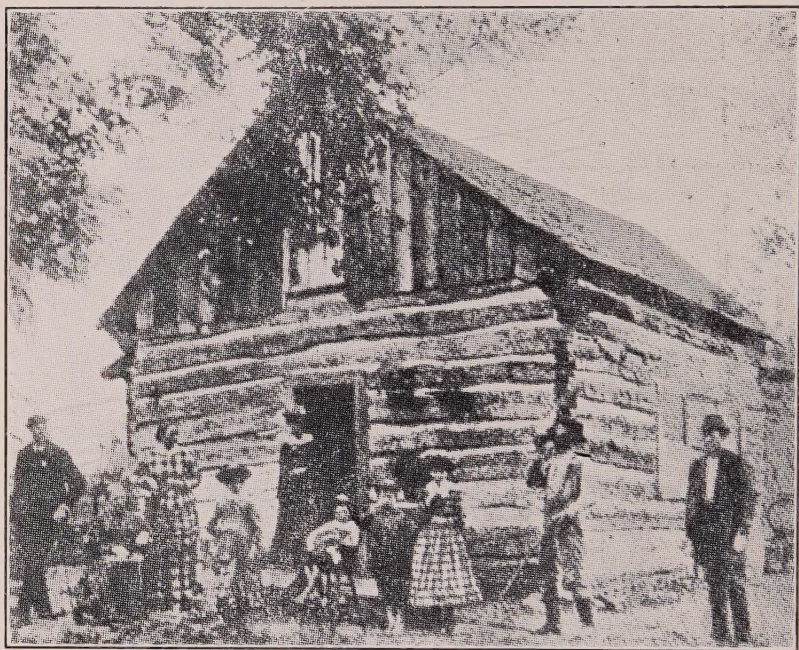
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The Mitchell Log Cabin, 1847



The Home in Mitchellville

# Annals of Iowa

ESTABLISHED 1863

VOL. XXXI, No. 8    DES MOINES, APRIL, 1953

THIRD SERIES

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## Eminent Iowan Series

• •  
THOMAS MITCHELL

• •  
A STURDY PIONEER OF CENTRAL IOWA

By LOIS CRAIG<sup>1</sup>

On a farm fourteen miles east of Des Moines, in Beaver township, the traveller who likes out-of-the-way places may find one of the oldest landmarks remaining in Polk county. Two and a half miles south of Highway Six, near Apple Grove Orchards, stand two buildings which are over one hundred years old. They are the horse barn and stage stand which were a part of the second stage station and hotel kept by Thomas Mitchell. Apple Grove or Mitchell Tavern was widely known as a convenient stopping place on the way to and from Fort Des Moines during the 1840's and 1850's and was kept by the man who was Polk county's first permanent white settler outside Fort Des Moines, its first sheriff, and one of its organizers. The living monument to this early pioneer of central Iowa is the town which bears his name — Mitchellville — situated eighteen miles east of Des Moines.

### BOYHOOD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A leader of outstanding characteristics, Thomas Mitchell was descended from Capt. John Mitchel, na-

<sup>1</sup> Miss Craig is a native of Mitchellville, and has an M.A. degree in history from the University of Wisconsin. She is now teaching in the schools of Colorado Springs, Colorado.



tive of England, who served as captain on a vessel sailing from Bristol to America. Captain Mitchel was lost at sea before his son William was born at Henniker, Merrimac county, New Hampshire, in 1768. William Mitchel, Thomas' father, married twice, leaving eleven children by his first wife. His second wife was of Scotch-Irish descent — Mrs. Dorothy Blake-Mitchell — to whom was born Thomas in March, 1816, Henry Blake, and Mary Ann.<sup>2</sup>

William Mitchel moved to Claremont, New Hampshire, in 1791, and lived on a farm one and a half miles from there. In 1832, an accident with a team of horses resulted in his death. He was a prominent citizen of Sullivan county; in politics a Whig, in religion an Episcopalian.<sup>3</sup>

For a young boy of sixteen years, with several brothers and sisters and no father to earn the living, there was only one thing for Thomas to do — start out for himself. Having been reared on a farm, it was natural for him to look to the farm for his support. He went to work as a farm hand for a neighbor at eleven dollars a month, at the same time receiving four months' more schooling. The second year of this kind of labor brought him an increase to fourteen dollars a month, enough to allow him to lay away some savings.

The mills and factories throughout New England were attracting rural youth, and in 1836 a paper mill in Claremont drew the boy there, where he earned four dollars a week and eight cents an hour for overtime, overtime meaning work after the first twelve hours. The next year he went across the Connecticut river to Springfield, Vermont, where he worked in a mill at the same rate of pay. Perhaps the effect of the panic of 1837 caused young Thomas to change his occupation, but at any rate, the following year he took to the road selling books and paper.

<sup>2</sup> Dorothy Blake changed the spelling of her husband's name to Mitchell.

<sup>3</sup> Corbitt, Willis G., "Genealogy of the Mitchell Family" (Mr. Corbitt, of Mollala, Oregon, is a grandson of Henry Blake Mitchell, who was a brother of Thomas); *Des Moines Register*, July 20, 1894.

Typical New England institutions flourished in the environment that shaped the mind and character of young Thomas Mitchell. In Claremont there was a society for debating, declamations and other literary exercises. During the 1830's he might have been influenced by the Claremont Independent Temperance Association, and perhaps he participated in the Sacred Music Society, with its membership of sixty, or in the band which gave concerts. His young heart may have been thrilled with the visit to Claremont of General Lafayette in 1824.<sup>4</sup>

#### DECIDES TO LEAVE THE EAST

It was probably for a combination of reasons that he decided to leave New Hampshire. The panic of 1837 and the struggle to get along in the factories there no doubt gave him a desire to improve his lot financially. Then too, he might have turned away from his crowded native state to seek new adventures. Possibly he had heard of the Black Hawk Purchase in 1832, which made land available for settlers in the Territory of Iowa. No doubt he felt the spirit of unrest and change that was "in the air" all over America in the 1830's.

When Thomas Mitchell left his New Hampshire home on November 2, 1839, he took with him certain characteristics of the New England mind which were bound to make him succeed on the frontier. His Yankee mind was quick and sharp, singularly honest. He was industrious and possessed a hardy perseverance which was a requisite for one who was to help tame a wilderness. He was imbued with a passionate interest in self-culture, as nearly all New Englanders were, and he had a profound respect for formal education. The struggle he went through in New Hampshire as a young man schooled him for greater hardships which he endured out on the lonely frontier.

He inherited from his father his politics, for William Mitchel was a Whig and an ardent abolitionist. Yet

<sup>4</sup> Waite, Otis F. R., *History of Claremont, New Hampshire; Claremont National Eagle*, Spring, 1837, (in *Wisconsin University Historical Library*).



he exchanged his father's faith for another creed. We have no clue as to why he did not remain an Episcopalian as he was probably brought up and as most of his brothers and sisters remained. Whatever his childhood faith may have been, he became a Universalist and adhered to that belief for the rest of his life. The doctrine of Universalism was spreading in New England at the time Thomas was growing up, and there was a church of that denomination in Claremont.

No record of his trip to Iowa is available, but it is reasonable to suppose that as he came west he took the same route which his brother Henry did a year later. Henry travelled over the mountains by oxen and wagon to Troy, New York, from there to Buffalo over the Erie canal, then by canal to Portsmouth, on the Ohio river, and from there to Cairo, Illinois, and up the Mississippi river.<sup>5</sup>

#### MITCHELL COMES TO IOWA

A month after he left New Hampshire, Thomas Mitchell arrived in St. Louis. He spent the first winter in St. Charles county, Missouri, working as a farm hand. In March of 1840 he arrived in Iowa, a territory that was attracting settlers by the thousands every month, having been opened to permanent settlement only seven years. The rich soil, the streams and woods, which easily yielded game, and the rapidly rising communities no doubt held out promise and hope to a young man with strength, ambition and ability. The town of Fairfield, in Jefferson county, appealed to him, a town which was literally on the edge of civilization. He took up a claim near there, upon which his brother Henry later lived, and entered into the life of the frontier community. In 1841, the brothers built the first frame dwelling house west of Fairfield.<sup>6</sup>

Having made some progress financially, and deciding that Iowa was the place he was going to settle, he did what many pioneers did — return to New England for

<sup>5</sup> Corbitt, Willis G., "Genealogy Record of Henry B. Mitchell Family."

<sup>6</sup> *The History of Jefferson County, Iowa*, p. 512 (1879).



a wife. In 1841, he married Miss Almira Swift in Thetford, Vermont.

Back in Fairfield in April, 1842, he was elected Commissioner of Jefferson County and held the office for two years. According to one writer, that same year he was sent to St. Louis from Fairfield to carry the first money received by the government from a land office in Iowa. He furnished his own team and was paid \$1.25 a day.<sup>7</sup>

When the government drew up the treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians at Agency City, Wapello county, on October 11, 1842, Thomas Mitchell was there to witness that momentous event.<sup>8</sup> By this treaty the Indians were required to give up their homes in Iowa territory after three years from that date, and the government was to establish a Fort to protect them until they should go farther west.

#### FINALLY LOCATES IN POLK COUNTY

Opportunities farther west for Mr. Mitchell were dependent upon the results of the Treaty of 1842. In May, 1843, Capt. James Allen with 120 men arrived at the fork of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers to set up the fort, in compliance with the treaty of the year before. Captain Allen, commander at Fort Des Moines, and Capt. John Beach, agent for the Sac and Fox Indians, gave Thomas Mitchell permission to build a stage station fifteen miles east of Des Moines on Camp creek in what is now Beaver township.<sup>9</sup> For the right to settle in the area Mr. Mitchell was to build a bridge across the creek and keep the public at his place.<sup>10</sup> The station also met the need for a post office between Fort Des Moines and Fairfield. Daniel Trullinger, an

<sup>7</sup> Undated clipping from scrapbook owned by Mrs. U. B. Rogers of Des Moines. Mrs. Rogers is a daughter of Thomas' brother, Henry.

<sup>8</sup> Frost, G. B., "The First White Settler in Polk County."

<sup>9</sup> Original, unpublished, undated manuscript by Thomas Mitchell telling of the founding of Beaver township.

<sup>10</sup> Nelson, Howard J., "The Economic Development of Des Moines," *Iowa Journal of History*, 48:195 (July, 1950); Thomas Mitchell Manuscript.

acquaintance of Mitchell's from New Hampshire, who had also pioneered in Fairfield, came to the fort in 1843 and recommended his friend Mitchell for the postmaster's job.

Accordingly, Thomas' partner-brother Henry, who had come to Fairfield in 1840, travelled the one hundred miles to Apple Grove by ox team in February, 1844, and started preparing a home for Thomas and his family. The winter was an unusual one — open and balmy, so warm that Henry was able to turn the cattle out to graze on the grass which grew so luxuriantly.

The house that Henry built was located fifteen miles east of Des Moines on Highway Six and one half mile south on the west side of the road east of Camp creek. It was a double log house, each cabin sixteen by eighteen feet, of hewed green logs with puncheon floors. The beds were built into the corners, thus requiring only one leg. The windows with sashes were probably the only luxury connected with it. To this crude home Thomas brought his wife and two children, a hired girl, and a hired man on April 14, 1844.

Their wheat had to be hauled by wagon over the prairie from the Mitchell farm near Fairfield. At first they took it to Bonaparte to be ground, later to the mill four miles north of Oskaloosa. Three lonely months passed before Mrs. Mitchell saw another white woman, except the hired girl. Mrs. Captain Beach stopped at the inn on her way to see her mother, Mrs. General Street, at the Agency in Wapello county.<sup>11</sup> Three encampments of Sac and Fox Indians were nearby, for this was still their country.

Twelve and a half cents a meal (side pork, corn bread and milk) and twenty-five cents for a night's lodging were the usual rates charged to the travellers who stopped at Mitchell's Inn. Their guests were many, for theirs was a strategic location. "It was necessary to have a feeding place between the Indian boundary line and the fort, the line being near where

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Mitchell Manuscript.

Monroe now is. All of the supplies for the Indians and troops had to be hauled by wagons from Keokuk to the fort. Therefore there was considerable travel."<sup>12</sup> The wagon roads to the fort brought business to the tavern, and in 1845 the legislature made provision for the building of a road connecting Iowa City with the garrison.<sup>13</sup> By 1850 the stage coach was making trips to Fort Des Moines.<sup>14</sup>

#### A FRIEND OF THE INDIANS

The Mitchell brothers (Henry stayed at Apple Grove for almost three years before returning to settle at Fairfield) maintained friendly relations with the Indians, sitting with them around the campfire at celebrations and special occasions. Both temperate men in the Puritan tradition, their consciences permitted them only to pretend that they were partaking of the whiskey bottle and peace pipe as they were passed around.<sup>15</sup>

Thomas knew Black Hawk, Appanoose and Powesheik personally.<sup>16</sup> One writer claimed that he also was able to converse freely with the red men in their own language, that they came to him for advice in times of trouble, and even that it was through his influence and friendly relations with them that the state was saved from massacres.<sup>17</sup> Although there is not sufficient proof for these assertions as yet, there can be no doubt that his relations with them were of a fraternal nature, not only during the period before their exodus to Kansas, but also after their return, and that this state of affairs was conducive to a successful and rapid settlement of this section of the frontier.

Mr. Mitchell entertained his eastern relatives and friends by taking them to see the Indians. One such

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Mitchell Manuscript.

<sup>13</sup> Nelson, "The Economic Development of Des Moines," 198.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 201.

<sup>15</sup> Corbitt, "Genealogy Record of the H. B. Mitchell Family."

<sup>16</sup> "Early Iowa Men and Stories," undated clipping from Rogers Scrapbook.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*



occasion was described by Mary Ann Mitchell, who visited her brother Thomas in the summer of 1850:

1850 July 13 went with Thomas & Almira & Mr. Carey to see the Indians camped on Skunk River on their way back to their home beyond the Missouri two squaws and one Indian came to ask Thomas to go to their tent Thomas bought a pipe for John, paid fifty cents for it saw Poweshick the chief of the Sacks and Fox Indians I should judge him to be about fifty years of age good looking has coat and dress like white people when in company with the whites he had nothing but a blanket on when in the tent. Some Winnebago in company, ec . . .

Another entry reads as follows:

went to see the Indian war dance in Ft. Des Moines about seventy warriors rode into town and around and then formed a circle and danced about an hour it was a novel scene.<sup>18</sup>

#### PUBLIC ENTERTAINED AT THE INN

Government men, army officers, immigrants and travellers of all sorts came to the Mitchell Inn and enjoyed the warm and sincere hospitality of its proprietor. No needy person was ever turned away. The story was related of a young man who stopped at the Inn over night and was preparing to leave the next morning without his breakfast, excusing himself by saying he did not feel well, while in reality he did not have enough money with him to pay for his meal. Thomas insisted on feeding him anyway. The young man was W. W. Moore, who later became a prominent business man in Des Moines.

Even religious refugees found a cordial reception at the inn. A band of 300 Mormons stopped for a rest of several days in July, 1845, camping in front of his tavern. They were travelling to Council Bluffs from Nauvoo, Illinois, and the genial host "sent them on their way rejoicing."<sup>19</sup>

The westward bound traveller, reading the *Harris*

<sup>18</sup> Original diary of Mary Ann Mitchell, in possession of Mrs. U. B. Rogers. Mr. Carey, from Claremont, New Hampshire, later settled in Polk County and worked for Thomas Mitchell.

<sup>19</sup> Andrews, L. F., *Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa*, II, 11; *Iowa State Register* (Daily), November 11, 1871.

*Over Land Guide* of January, 1852, possibly saw the advertisement of the tavern:

Tom Mitchell (!!!) Dispenses comfort to the weary (!) feeds the hungry (!) and cheers the gloomy (!!!) at his old, well-known stand, 13 miles east of Ft. Des Moines. Don't pass me by.

And not many did. The tide of immigration in the 1840's and 1850's brought hundreds and thousands of people by way of Fort Des Moines to Council Bluffs, the starting point on the Oregon Trail. The "Forty-Niners" were advised to go through Fort Des Moines, and the *Iowa Star* for September 28, 1849, carried a reprinted article from an eastern paper entitled "Best Route to the Pacific." During that exciting year Mr. Mitchell fed 7,000 teams at his tavern.<sup>20</sup>

At least one foreign traveller stopped at Mitchell's Inn. An Englishman came upon the proprietor one day while he was shingling the roof. The guest called out, "What are you doing here?" The answer he received may have been given only half seriously, but it can be said that Thomas Mitchell did these things during his life time: "I'm feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the widows and fatherless, and keeping myself unspotted from the world." The Englishman stayed long enough to learn that he was a dispenser of true hospitality, and when he returned home he mailed Mr. Mitchell a copy of a London newspaper with an article mentioning his visit to the Mitchell Tavern.<sup>21</sup>

#### PUBLIC LIFE DURING 1840's AND 1850's

A man of unusual energy and ambition, Thomas Mitchell not only found time to be a genial host, but he also worked to build up the country beyond the limits of his own plot of ground, a fact which made him well known in central Iowa. He took a significant part in the formation of the county and the state and was also a booster for Des Moines. When Iowa's

<sup>20</sup> *Iowa State Register* (Daily), July 17, 1894.

<sup>21</sup> Conversation with Harry Mitchell, son of Thomas.

territorial delegate, A. C. Dodge, visited the area that became Polk county, in 1845, in order to secure the opinions of the settlers regarding statehood, he held an interesting conversation with Mr. Mitchell. The general explained that the western boundary line would likely be drawn a few miles west of the fort, since what lay beyond was a part of the Great American Desert. It is not known whether Mitchell's opinion carried any weight or not, but he expressed the view that Iowa's western boundary should extend to the Missouri river.<sup>22</sup>

#### BECAME POLK COUNTY'S FIRST SHERIFF

The territorial legislature passed an act in January, 1846 which provided for the organization of Jasper and Polk counties, and for the election of officers on the first Monday in April of that year. For the voting in April the clerk of the district court established three precincts, one of which was called the Camp creek precinct at the Thomas Mitchell house. One result of the 175 votes cast in the county was to make Mr. Mitchell the sheriff until the regular election in August. At that time he was again elected and held the office until 1848.

His work as sheriff consisted partly in apprehending fugitives from the law, rounding up horse thieves, and summoning jurors for district court. One time a mob was going to hang a horse thief, but Sheriff Mitchell prevented it.<sup>23</sup>

Not only did he protect his fellowmen from out and out criminals, but he also worked to safeguard them from shrewd swindlers. In the spring of 1848, a public meeting of citizens at the fort was held to adopt measures for protection against land speculators. As a member of the Claim club which was established at that time, Thomas Mitchell was a strong advocate of the rights of settlers.

<sup>22</sup> *Des Moines Daily Iowa Capital*, July 16, 1894; *Des Moines Plain Talk*, July 21, 1894; *Iowa State Register*, July 17, 1894.

<sup>23</sup> Conversation with Harry Mitchell; Andrews, *Pioneers of Polk County*, I, 8.



Nearly every county has a story about the dispute over where the county seat was to be located. Although not as violent as many, Polk county had its difficulties, and Thomas Mitchell, along with Dr. P. B. Fagan and some other men, worked for the location at the Fort. On a cold day in February, 1846, the men started for Iowa City to work as lobbyists and confer with the commissioners of location. The first night out from the fort they were compelled to stop at a cabin four miles east of Newton. The accommodations they received were perhaps not as good as those the tavern operator was in the habit of extending. They had to sleep in trundle beds and were "refreshed" in the morning with corn bread and sour bacon.<sup>24</sup>

#### SOCIAL LIFE AT THE INN

With a variety of visitors at the tavern, the Mitchell family did not experience the monotony that was common to most households on the frontier. In the spring of 1846, three men who were destined to become distinguished citizens of Des Moines entered Polk county and dined at the tavern — Dr. P. B. Fagan, P. M. Casady, and W. D. Frazee. It was an exciting day, for a marriage ceremony took place in Mitchell's log cabin, uniting Benjamin Bryant and Elvira Birge. Some writers have called this the first marriage in Polk county. The occasion might have been more dignified if the squire who performed the ceremony had not forgotten some of his lines. In a loud voice a lawyer who was present threw him the missing words from across the room and the couple was made man and wife. On the same day, when Thomas' young son Orrin was bitten by a rattlesnake, Dr. Fagan was there to prescribe two old-fashioned remedies — whiskey and tobacco.<sup>25</sup>

Before the people in eastern Polk county were bound together by a town, with its various institutions, the Mitchell Tavern was the center of community life. In

<sup>24</sup> Frost, "First White Settler in Polk County," 4.

<sup>25</sup> Frost, "The First White Settler in Polk County," 4.

the midst of pressing, pioneer duties, they took time out for rollicking good times, parties which attracted not only young people from the immediate vicinity, but also from Des Moines. The following account by W. W. Moore vividly describes one phase of the social life of the inn:

In the early days, when a snow storm came, we young folks — Hoyt Sherman, Mr. Tidrick, Mr. Casady and a lot more of us — would hustle out, get a wood-sled — sleighs were not in fashion — and, picking up a fiddler, would start in early evening for Uncle Tommy Mitchell's. We never sent any notice, but, getting there at seven o'clock or so, would soon have possession of the house. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell could join the rest of us in a good old-fashioned dance and at midnight would serve us a supper that it makes by mouth water now to think of.<sup>26</sup>

Postoffice, voting place, hotel for travellers, and social center — the Mitchell Tavern at Apple Grove served as all these. It also was somewhat of a religious and educational center for the settlers of the surrounding area. Travelling preachers gave sermons there on occasion. Ezra Rathbun, a licensed Methodist preacher, was one of them.<sup>27</sup> Sanford Haines and a Mr. Pardoe were two others. Until churches were built the pioneers who were interested in religion often held services in their homes, so that, of course, Mr. Mitchell's home was not the only place where they could hear preaching.

#### SCHOOL FACILITIES PROVIDED

The settlers of Beaver township and Apple Grove district did not wait for ideal conditions before starting a school. Mr. Mitchell, having received his schooling in New England, where much importance was attached to popular education, took the initiative in the

<sup>26</sup> *The Saturday Review*, July 21, 1894.

<sup>27</sup> Ezra Rathbun preached the first sermon in Fort Des Moines, the occasion being the funeral of Lt. Grier's baby. Ezra's father, Abner, was founder of the Methodist Episcopal church in Des Moines (F. T. Van Liew, "Famous Names Among Early Residents of 'Raccoon Row'", *Des Moines Tribune*, June 15, 1946). The Rathbuns, father and son, are buried in the Canfield cemetery eight miles southwest of Mitchellville, just north of Highway 163.

enterprise. He was in conversation with a neighbor, William Sweeney, who seemed not to know what steps to take. Sweeney asked, "Where can you get your scholars, where can you get a room, and above all, where can you get a teacher?"

The native New Englander replied, "You have two scholars [two children], I have two. I can give a room over the bar room in the hotel, as it is only used as a bed room at night, and I can furnish a teacher for eight dollars per month, by the name of Miss Lucia Carey, and she can pay for her board by helping my wife evenings and mornings in the hotel."

The idea was carried out, using an elementary spelling book and the simple materials at hand. For two years the school was kept, with an uncertified teacher and without the aid of a county superintendent, for that office had not yet been created. So far as is known, this was the beginning of schools in Beaver township.<sup>28</sup>

#### SECOND TAVERN

The original cabins and farm, which the Mitchells took up in 1844, were sold in 1846 to Mr. George Barlow, whereupon the tavern owner moved a mile and a half south and a half mile east, among the wild apple groves near Camp creek. Here he built a larger stage station and hotel, this time a frame building with a long dining room, a large horse barn and a building through which the coaches drove, a place of protection where the passengers alighted. This latter is still standing, a weather-beaten, unpainted building. Made out of walnut, it has wide double doors on opposite sides and windows set high above the entrance and exit. The farm is owned now by Prof. Charles Kinney of Des Moines.

It was to this second tavern that Thomas' brother Henry brought his bride in 1847 for a three weeks' honeymoon before taking her to their home west of

<sup>28</sup> Williams, J. D., "Historical Sketch of the Williams Family," 7. Mr. Williams was a pupil in that first school.



Fairfield. In his travelling back and forth between his brother's tavern or the fort and Fairfield, Henry Mitchell had often stopped at an inn at Tool's Point (now Monroe). Here he had made the acquaintance of young Maria Tool who became his wife. After the wedding the couple started off for the Mitchell Inn at Apple Grove in a covered wagon drawn by horses, which according to the standard of the day was a more stylish way of travelling than by an ox-drawn vehicle.<sup>29</sup>

### MITCHELL'S FIRST TOWN

The prospect of the coming of the railroad changed Mr. Mitchell's location in 1857. The Mississippi and Missouri Railroad (later Rock Island) was surveyed by Grenville M. Dodge and Peter A. Dey in 1852 and 1853. It was thought and hoped that the road would reach Des Moines by January 1, 1857. With that expectation bonds were voted, and there was an increase in the influx of settlers.<sup>30</sup> Mr. Mitchell spent much time in the western part of Jasper and the eastern part of Polk county urging people to vote the aid and in securing the right-of-way for the company. He donated the right to the railroad where it crossed his land for one mile. He also helped to secure the right-of-way for the Des Moines Valley Railroad.

Mr. Tracy, an official of the M. & M., suggested that Section Two in Beaver township would be a good place for a station and promised to make one there when the road came through. Accordingly, Mr. Mitchell and two men from Wayne county, Indiana, laid out a town of eighty acres, railroad grounds and all, in the first part of 1857. The railroad did not come, but the town grew in spite of it. The Crisis of 1857 and the Civil war kept the people waiting ten long years for "the cars."

At the pinnacle of its fame the little town of Mitchelltown, which lay a mile and a half northwest of the

<sup>29</sup> Corbitt, "Genealogy Record of Henry B. Mitchell Family."

<sup>30</sup> Thomas Mitchell Manuscript.

present town, reached a population of 200 in 1861.<sup>31</sup> Nothing remains to mark the site now. The clump of beautiful old maple trees, which was a landmark for so long, was cut down a few years ago, leaving only an unrevealing field of corn.

Mr. Mitchell was rightly called the chief proprietor of the little village. He and R. B. Ellis put up a steam saw mill at Trullinger Grove nearby, so that lumber would be available to those who wanted to build houses. He built for himself a twenty-one room house just outside the town and a large hotel inside the town which was always operated by someone else. He urged settlers to come there to live. At least three families were from his home town of Claremont, New Hampshire. A tannery, shoe shop, store, hotel, blacksmith shop, and school gave the place "quite the appearance of a town," according to the village's number one booster.<sup>32</sup> He built the school house himself, hired the teacher, and also furnished the fuel and other necessities for several years. The building was considered quite "nobby" by the people in those days, for it had a steeple and bell on top.<sup>33</sup>

In many frontier settlements the school house served as a church edifice and public gathering place as well as for educational purposes. It was so in old Mitchelltown. Preachers of the Universalist, Christian and Methodist denominations held services there from time to time. It was the scene of political debates and speeches during the Civil war, and temperance lecturers gave orations there. The community also supported a Good Templar lodge and a brass band.

The outside world was brought to the village by means of the stage coach and newspapers from Des Moines and other cities. In 1861, the route of the

<sup>31</sup> *Mitchellville News*, September 27, 1878. (The town's official post office name was Mitchellville, but it is still referred to as Mitchelltown to distinguish it from the present town.)

<sup>32</sup> Thomas Mitchell Manuscript.

<sup>33</sup> Blyler, Frank F., *Reminiscences in Mitchellville Index*, January 22, 1892.

stage coach was changed from Apple Grove, five miles south, to go through Mitchell's town, a breakfast stop on the run from Des Moines to Iowa City.<sup>34</sup>

#### MITCHELL'S SECOND TOWN

It is impossible to give the exact reason or reasons why the surveyed line of the railroad was changed. In August, 1867, the long-awaited "cars" of the Rock Island came on rails laid down where the present route lies, leaving Mitchelltown out in the cold. Not to be outdone, however, Thomas Mitchell and his townspeople probably thanked God and took courage; that is, thanked God for the railroad and with courage started building a bigger and better town.

In June, 1867, Mr. Mitchell and a Des Moines surveyor laid out the present Mitchellville on a 160-acre plot which he owned. In the mind of the founder it was to be an ideal town. Allowance was made for wide streets — 100 feet wide north and south, eighty feet wide east and west. Whether by accident or by intention, the cultural pattern was in many respects similar to that of the town he left behind him in New Hampshire. Its well-built houses would have enterprising, industrious, sober-minded, cultured people in them. It would have churches and prosperous businesses and a school. It would *not* have a saloon, for he refused to sell lots to anyone wishing to engage in the liquor business.

Mr. Mitchell was largely responsible for the organization and building of the Universalist church in Mitchellville. The date above the door of the simple, white-spired, New England style church is 1868. He was an active worker not only in the local church but also in the state organization, serving in various offices.

#### MITCHELL SEMINARY

During the years 1871-1872, there was an expectant, prosperous outlook in the community, with new businesses and dwellings being erected and many new set-

<sup>34</sup> *Iowa State Register* (weekly), September 4, 1861; *Mitchellville News*, September 27, 1878.



tlers arriving to make Mitchellville their home. The chief reason for the increased activity was the project initiated by Thomas Mitchell, described in the following newspaper account:

"An educational institution called Mitchell Seminary will go into operation next year at Mitchellville, Iowa, under the management of the Universalists. The building, which is now in process of erection, is of brick and stone, and is four stories high, and 120 feet long. The Hon. Thomas Mitchell has endowed the seminary with \$20,000 worth of land. — *New York Tribune*."

Many of our old citizens remember the founder of this institution. Hon. Thomas Mitchell is a native of Claremont, living here until about the year 1840, when he removed to Iowa.<sup>35</sup>

On the Fourth of July, 1872, the cornerstone was laid for the large, three-story building that was to house Mitchell Seminary. This school was a further, concrete expression of the founder's desire to have an ideal town, and it helped to meet the need of a high school. It was controlled by a board of trustees who were appointed by the Iowa Universalist convention and was not a college, but an academy which sought to prepare young people for work on the college level. In 1878-1879, a faculty of nine teachers offered an imposing list of subjects: English, German, French, Latin, Greek, art, music, a business course, telegraphy and takigraphy.<sup>36</sup> The local station agent gave the course in telegraphy, and Dr. Haldeman, of Mitchellville, who had received medical training in Heidelberg, Germany, gave lectures on physiology. The music department was considered quite strong and was headed by Prof. J. H. Goodrich of New York. Besides forty-eight students who were taking the regular three-year course, there were thirty-four "irregulars" who were evidently

<sup>35</sup> Claremont, New Hampshire, *National Eagle*, Nov. 11, 1871, Wisconsin University Historical Library.

<sup>36</sup> Takigraphy, n., same as tachygraphy, n., (pronounced ta-kig-ra-fi), the art or practice of quick writing; stenography; ancient shorthand. — Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, unabridged, 1950.

grade school pupils, and also there was a list of special music students.<sup>37</sup>

The financial strain, the greater share of which fell on Mr. Mitchell, was too much to allow the seminary more than a short existence. Early in 1880, the institution was sold to the state for use as the Girls' Reformatory. The loss of \$12,000 and the failure of the venture no doubt were a bitter disappointment to the founder, but he maintained a genuine interest in the State Training School which took its place. Furthermore, he served on the board of trustees of the Iowa Industrial School from 1880 until his death in 1894, and for eight years of that time he was president of the Board. The significance of the seminary was the strong cultural influence which it and its faculty exerted on the life of the little town across the tracks, and the fact that it filled the need of a high school in eastern Polk county until Mitchellville should have one of its own.

#### POLITICAL ACTIVITY

In politics, as well as in religion and education, Thomas Mitchell possessed strong convictions and, with one exception, hewed to a certain line. He was at first a Whig and then later a Republican. He stood firm in the cause of freedom for the negro, and his home was a depot on the "underground railroad." His party alignment, though, did not prevent him from subscribing to a Democratic newspaper or from defending the liberties of those whose political beliefs differed from his. During the Civil war he prevented an angry mob from hanging a fellow-townsmen who was a Democrat; he looked upon all men as his brothers.

In the early days of the county the Democrats were in power, and the Whigs made strenuous efforts to win some of the elections. One of the most famous of these was the nip-and-tuck fight of 1848. Tom Mitchell and a friend persuaded sixteen Democrats to drive some hogs to market at Ottumwa the day before

<sup>37</sup> "Catalogue of Mitchell Seminary, 1878-1879."

election so that they would be unable to vote. On the other hand, the two Whigs returned home on their fast horses, arriving in time to cast their votes.

In the fall of 1857, Mitchell was elected on the Republican ticket to represent Polk and Jasper counties in the lower house of the legislature, which sat for the first time in the new capitol at Des Moines. He served on a committee to examine credentials of persons claiming seats in the house, on committees for claims, for public buildings, and for the improvement of the Des Moines river.

When his own convictions and party platform were at odds, he forsook the Republican ranks. This was in 1873, when he ran for state senator for the Anti-Monopoly party, and won over his Republican opponent. The editor of the *Iowa State Register* regretted to see Tom Mitchell's name on any other than a straight Republican ticket, for he confessed that when it came to character, capacity, and personal and public worth, not one word could be urged against him.<sup>38</sup>

Protesting "the encroachments of the rings and monopolies on the rights of the people," the Anti-Monops were fortunate in securing a man to run for them who was as widely known and respected as Thomas Mitchell. However, his "waywardness" was only temporary; the political backslider returned to the Republican fold after the period of agrarian discontent was ended.

In his position as senator at Des Moines he served on the standing committees on normal schools, public buildings, congressional districts, compensation of public officers and reform school. In 1876 he introduced an amendment to a bill which made possible the straightening of Skunk river, an improvement which brought under cultivation several thousand acres, previously useless due to annual floods. He also introduced a bill in 1876, to appropriate \$350,000 for the further erection of the state capitol.

<sup>38</sup> *Iowa State Register* (weekly), July 18, 1873.



His life as a public servant not only took him into the realm of state affairs, but also those of the county, for while he was representative, in 1859, he was elected to the county board of supervisors and served six years. Here he served on a committee to equalize tax lists and introduced the following resolution, which passed: "That the sum of \$1,000 be set aside to give to needy families of soldiers, to be distributed by a committee." This concern which he had for people bereft of loved ones by the Civil war reflected a strong humanitarian spirit.

#### INTERESTED IN RAILROADS AND AGRICULTURE

Many causes and interests received the support of this civic-minded man. He not only worked hard to promote the Rock Island and Des Moines Valley Railroads, but he promoted one from the north. In 1866, he subscribed \$300 for the stock of the Iowa Minnesota Railroad Company and gave a check on the spot. A Des Moines paper lauded him for appreciating the value of a railroad to the farming interests.

A farmer by occupation, he was intensely interested in agriculture. He actively encouraged the employment of improved farming methods by participating in fairs. As early as 1852, he showed Durham cattle at a fair held in Des Moines and was one of the three directors of it. In December, 1853, the first State Agricultural Society was organized in Fairfield with a board of managers composed of five members from each of the thirteen counties. Mr. Mitchell was on the board from Polk county. Later he was active in the Polk county Agricultural Society and served as Vice-President of the Model Farm and Agricultural College provided for by act of the General Assembly of 1858. His agricultural interests were not confined to the promotion of good farming in general, but he was a practical man who knew about animals. Looked upon by fellow-farmers as a sort of unlicensed "horse doctor," he was called upon to treat sick animals.

Another interest which claimed his attention was

the Polk County Old Settlers Association, formed in 1868. Mr. Mitchell was honored by being chosen its first president and served thereafter for many years. The old timers met for picnics and other social times, and his contributions to such gatherings were always welcome.

The temperance cause found in him a real warrior of the Carrie Nation type. He fought with determination to keep his town clear of what he considered a dreadful blight — the saloon. One time someone established one near his farm. It was reported that the wind blew it down and that Thomas Mitchell was in the wind. More than that. He *was* the wind!<sup>89</sup>

Another reform which Thomas Mitchell considered worthy of his attention was the Women's Rights movement, which was gaining a following over the country during the second half of the nineteenth century. Its influence was felt even in the small town. Some women in Mitchellville had a Political Equality club, and Mr. Mitchell's name was included in the list of citizens who supported their cause.

#### A KIND, GENEROUS AND JUST MAN

The intense moral earnestness of the man did not make him a sour, long-faced individual. He loved a good joke and a funny story. He was especially fond of telling Irish stories, frequently quoting Will Carleton, author of Irish folk-tales. Those who knew him only slightly remember his jovial, cheerful good nature. The story was published of how he and a gentleman friend of his plotted a practical joke on their wives who had never met each other. Each man informed his wife that the wife of the other was very hard of hearing. When they were introduced and started screaming at each other their husbands withdrew to the next room to laugh and enjoy their prank. When he was a county supervisor the board had a supper one night at the "Des Moines House." The

<sup>89</sup> Conversation with Harry Mitchell.

newspaper reported that Mitchell "made the table roar with his lively sallies of humor."

The impression he gave to a visitor from Chicago, who reported a Universalist Convention, is interesting: "His whole-hearted qualities have made everybody his friend, and in off-hand Western phrase he is known as 'Tom' Mitchell. But he is not as might be inferred from this cognomen, rough, coarse, or uncouth, but one of nature's noblemen, and a natural gentleman."<sup>40</sup>

Notable characteristics of "Uncle Tommy" were his generosity and kindness. His philosophy was to take every man to be honest until he should be proved dishonest. It may be truly said that he was generous to a fault, for there were those who took advantage of his good nature. When the teachers at his seminary were not receiving all their salaries, he made up to them the balance out of his own pocket and no one paid him back.<sup>41</sup>

A man came to him one time who had twelve hungry children and two starved old horses. "Uncle Tom" took them in for the night, wintered them on one of his farms, then later let them move on to another farm which he owned, asking a third of the crop for rent. The rent was never paid.<sup>42</sup>

Although he was firm in his own religious beliefs, he was tolerant of other faiths to the extent that he even contributed to other churches in Mitchellville. He could ask a blessing with Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists around his table. Methodists, whose theology was opposite from his own, were invited to preach in his tavern, for he probably realized that religion was a great civilizer for a frontier country. Mr. Rathbun, one of the first preachers in the county, was a Portuguese and of a dark complexion. One day while the minister was eating at the Mitchell Tavern, some

<sup>40</sup> Article from Chicago *New Covenant*, reprinted in *Iowa State Register* (weekly), July 26, 1872.

<sup>41</sup> Conversation with Mrs. Mabel Martin, of El Reno, Oklahoma. Mrs. Martin is a niece of Mr. Mitchell.

<sup>42</sup> Conversation with Harry Mitchell.



intolerant guests appeared who asked the host if they had to eat with "that nigger." With righteous indignation, the host defended the preacher and told the offenders that they should not, indeed, eat with him. They found their fare some place else that day.<sup>43</sup>

In the circle of his family Mr. Mitchell was kind and yet firm. Perhaps his children wished he had extended more of his generosity toward them, for he was a strict disciplinarian, often applying the whip to his sons for some misdeed.

Two boys and two girls were born to Mr. Mitchell by his first wife. The sons both died in youth, the older, Orrin, a victim of the Civil war. He and his second wife, Ann C. Mattern, also had four children. Two of them are still living — Harry, in Booker, Texas, and John, in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Death came to this noble pioneer on July 15, 1894. At his funeral the little church in Mitchellville was too small to hold the people who had come to mourn the loss of their "Uncle Tom." Many people from neighboring towns came to lay their respected friend away, and a special train brought old settlers from Des Moines.

With a limited education and humble background, this strong New Englander was founder of two towns, two schools, a church and a seminary, promoter of railroads, office holder and legislator. He brought a high type of culture to a wilderness country. Indeed, his life story presents a significant segment in the history of central Iowa.

<sup>43</sup> Blyler, *Reminiscences in Mitchellville Index*, spring, 1892.

# Keosauqua's Famous Men

By A. M. PIPER

*Editor the Council Bluffs Nonpareil*

"Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some had the judgment to live in Keosauqua for a while."

This humorous quip by George G. Wright, United States senator and chief justice of Iowa was recalled by the death of George S. Wright of Council Bluffs, who was born in Keosauqua. He was brought to Council Bluffs as a child of two years, by his father, George F. Wright, who was not related to Judge George G. Wright, but had studied law in his office in Keosauqua. George F. Wright came to Council Bluffs in 1868, the year young George was born, and brought his family two years later.

Within a period of fifteen years, from 1850 to 1865, Van Buren county, of which Keosauqua is the county seat, was the home of six men who afterwards became United States senators; a dozen who were destined to be congressmen; three United States judges; half a dozen men who in later years counted their wealth from two to a hundred or more millions; several who attained high honors as military commanders; fully a dozen governors, lieutenant governors and high officials in Iowa and other states; four or five distinguished railroad managers and presidents; scores who later achieved high distinction as lawyers in numerous states west of the Mississippi; cabinet members, ministers in the diplomatic service, orators, statesmen, a candidate for president, leading business men, and men famous in other vocations.

George Franklin Wright, father of the late George S. Wright of Council Bluffs, came to Keosauqua from Vermont in 1855, and commenced the study of law with the firm of Wright, Knapp and Caldwell. He

was Knapp's nephew, and he was a member of a large class of students under the tutelage of George G. Wright, later to become a supreme court justice and United States senator. In 1857, he was admitted to the Van Buren county bar and the same year became a member of the firm of Knapp, Caldwell and Wright, George G. Wright having become a member of the Iowa supreme court. Early in 1861 he enlisted in response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, and helped raise a company in Van Buren county.

In 1863, he was married to Ellen E. Wright of Northfield, Vermont. He moved the family to Council Bluffs when George S. was two years old, having formed a partnership with Judge Caleb Baldwin. During the years that followed he was elected to the state senate from Pottawattamie county and rendered distinguished service in the legislature. The practice of the firm was large and varied. George F. Wright was also active in many important business enterprises including Omaha and Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company, which built the Douglas street bridge and put into operation the first electric street railway line to connect Iowa and Nebraska. He was one of the many Keosauquans who achieved fame and fortune elsewhere.

#### A COPPER KING INCLUDED

One of the six United States senators who came from Van Buren county was William A. Clark, whose father was a farmer and business man at Bentonsport a few miles from Keosauqua. He became one of the copper kings of Montana, one of the richest men in the United States, was elected to the senate after a bitter fight in which members of the Montana legislature were reportedly bought and sold at high prices. (Senators were elected by the state legislatures in those days.) Clark was also a builder of railroads, a collector of expensive paintings and a builder of a mansion on Fifth avenue in New York, which was re-



cently torn down. At the time he was a member of the senate, it was said that his annual income would buy all of Van Buren county.

Another Montana man of millions who came from Keosauqua was A. J. Davis. While he was a young man in Keosauqua he used to pay attention to a young woman who later married George G. Wright. When Wright was United States senator and his sons, who also became lawyers, were trying to establish themselves in practice, he used to console them by remarking it would have been a lot easier for them if their mother "had married Alex Davis instead of me."

But the boys did very well. The oldest, Thomas Wright, became general counsel of the Rock Island and one of the most noted lawyers in the west. The second son, Craig Wright, of Sioux City, was a leader of the Western Iowa bar. Another son was Carroll Wright of Des Moines, Iowa attorney for the Rock Island.

#### SOURCE OF WEST'S LEADING LAWYERS

From the office of the famous old firm of Wright, Knapp and Caldwell, came many of the West's best lawyers. Joseph R. Knapp, federal attorney for Iowa, was one of Iowa's greatest lawyers. Henry Clay Caldwell, appointed United States district judge in Arkansas by President Lincoln, later went to the U.S. Circuit Court.

Another Keosauquan who became great was Delazon Smith. Under President Tyler he was minister to Colombia. Later he went to the Pacific coast, became rich and was the first United States senator elected from Oregon.

John Henry Gear, governor of Iowa, congressman and twice elected United States senator, was another Keosauquan of the early day.

Then there was William E. (Billy) Mason, a Bentonsport lad like William A. Clark. But he went to school in Keosauqua and later became United States senator from Illinois.

Nearly a generation before the Civil war two young men started a newspaper in Keosauqua. They were J. B. Howell and Samuel M. Clark. Later they moved to Keokuk. Howell became United States senator and Clark represented the First district in the house of representatives until he tired of it and retired.

The roll of famous men who once lived in Keosauqua is long.

There was Augustus C. Hall, a great lawyer and orator, a Democratic congressman from the first district and later appointed chief justice of Nebraska territory by President Buchanan.

George W. McCrary, born and raised in Keosauqua, an Iowa congressman, U.S. circuit judge in Grant's administration and secretary of war under President Hayes.

#### ONE OF KEOSAUQUA'S MILLIONAIRES

John F. Dillon, whose name would go on almost any list of the greatest lawyers America has produced, was reared and educated in Keosauqua. He sat for years on the Iowa supreme bench and made it famous for his decisions. Later he became a lawyer for the Gould interests in New York, a man of great wealth, one of the Keosauqua millionaires.

Another man of energy and ability was Seth Richards, Connecticut Yankee by birth and citizen of Van Buren county for many years. At one time he owned 65,000 acres of Iowa land. In 1880 he went to Oakland, California, and there multiplied a fortune, already large. He probably left \$5,000,000 when he died, in 1895, at the age of 85.

Other notable Keosauquans were Congressman Benton J. Hall who represented the first Iowa district in congress one term, and was named patent commissioner by President Cleveland; Gen. J. B. Weaver, congressman and greenback and Populist candidate for President, once polling over a million votes; Congressman John A. T. Hull who represented the seventh Iowa district in congress for many years and was chairman of

the committee on military affairs; William Webster, congressman from Nevada for years and the leading lawyer of that state; E. K. Valentine, congressman several terms from a Nebraska district; Elisha Cutler, Jr., the first secretary of the state of Iowa after its admission to the Union; Josiah Bonney, who succeeded Cutler as secretary of state and later refused a nomination for governor; Capt. V. P. Twombly, who became treasurer of Iowa; Samuel Elbert, twice supreme judge of Colorado and twice governor of that state.

#### ACHIEVED FAME AS SOLDIERS

But not only as lawyers and politicians were Keosauquans famous. There were some who achieved fame as soldiers, as railroad managers and in other fields of activity.

Keosauquans made a remarkable record in the Civil war. James M. Tuttle, captain of Van Buren county's first company of volunteers, became colonel of the famous 2nd Iowa, was promoted to brigadier general and later to major general.

Another Keosauqua captain in the 2nd Iowa, was Capt. V. P. Twombly, the youth who planted the colors on the works at Ft. Donelson — and kept them there — after four other men had been shot down with the flag in their hands. Capt. Twombly's heroic act is depicted in a magnificent bronze on the Iowa soldiers' and sailors' monument in Des Moines.

Judge Henry Clay Caldwell, too, was a gallant soldier. He rose from the ranks to be major of the 4th Iowa cavalry. One of the most promising careers, that of Capt. Lee Elbert, was cut short by a rebel bullet in the very beginning of the war.

His father, Dr. Samuel Elbert, should not be overlooked for he was president of the territorial council of Iowa and had a large part in saving Iowa to the Union in the present form. He opposed and helped in the rejection of the first constitution, which would have fixed the western boundary of the state about 100 miles east of the Missouri. As a result, congress



tried again and passed an act setting the present boundaries. Except for Dr. Elbert and his associates, Council Bluffs wouldn't be in Iowa.

Major Hugh Brown of the regular army went as a private from Van Buren county at the beginning of the Civil war, and retired from the service in 1888. Col. O. H. P. Scott of the 48th Iowa was from Keosauqua. So was Col. Daniel Kent of the 19th Iowa.

#### RAILROAD MEN AND ATTORNEYS

Railroad building and management claimed some of the best brains of Keosauqua. H. M. Hoxie, general manager of the Missouri Pacific for many years and an individual having wide influence, was a Keosauqua boy. H. L. Morrell, general manager of another great southern system, was born in Keosauqua. W. W. Baldwin, for many years president of the St. Louis, Keokuk and Northern Railroad, and assistant to the president of the great Burlington system, was a Keosauquan. So was T. O. Baker, general passenger agent of the Northern Ohio railroad.

Edwin Manning, who came to Keosauqua in 1827 and lived there until his death in 1892, was one of Iowa's wealthiest citizens when he died. He conducted a great store, invested in railroads, lands and banking and was the town patriarch, in the last decade of his life, the only remaining member of the colony of early residents who had achieved distinguished success.

St. Louis took E. O. Standard from Keosauqua. He became lieutenant governor of Missouri, member of congress, and president of the chamber of commerce of that city.

C. C. Nourse, who became Iowa attorney general, for many years a leader of the Des Moines bar and a district judge, was a Keosauqua boy. So was D. C. Beaman, general solicitor of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. So was Calvin Manning, of Ottumwa, U.S. commissioner to the Paris exposition and a leader in state politics. He was the son of Edwin Manning.

George B. Redd and George Stidger became promi-

nent attorneys in Denver. They were members of the Keosauqua school of legal instruction that centered in the old Wright, Knapp and Caldwell office. So were W. A. Work and F. M. Hunter of Ottumwa; George F. Wright and W. S. Mayne of Council Bluffs; Circuit Judge Argus Cox of Bolivar, Missouri; Judge Robert Sloan who presided over courts in the second judicial district of Iowa for more than a quarter of a century.

None of the famous men named survive. All were products of the last century, and the only one whose life extended into the second half of the present century was George S. Wright, who lived for more than 80 years in Council Bluffs.

Why the little town of Keosauqua in old Van Buren gave the nation more distinguished men than any other Iowa city, we shall never know. There was something in the atmosphere of that pioneer community that generated greatness. It is a record that ought not be forgotten.

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## More Comfortable Living

"With the investment of more than 150 billion dollars in new plants and equipment since the end of World War II, this nation has the finest and most efficient industrial establishment the world has ever seen," Charles R. Sligh, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, declared in a year-end statement.

He added, "we know better than we ever did before how to keep our economic machine functioning in high gear, and how to cope with the occasional periods of adjustment which are inevitable."

He pictured the American people as having "learned a lot about how to make our country the kind of land in which everyone can live in dignity, comfort and personal contentment."

# Pioneer Animal Lore

By N. TJERNAGEL

We should not think of the Iowa pioneer as a figure appearing solitary and alone in the offing of the vast prairie-spaces; for, he had beside him his family, and had also the company of the horse, the ox, the cow, the sheep, the pig, even the speckled hen and, of course, the cat and the dog. And then there were the timber and prairie birds and the four-footed folk of the woods and plains, which represented life and activity in these wild areas before the advent of man and his entourage.

Though at first the ox shared with the horse as a beast of burden, the latter became all-important in the later development of the country. The ox was an easy keeper, and could do a fair share of work on grass and hay alone. However, if strenuously put to it he did not object to some added grain for his upkeep. What saved the ox from emaciation and general run-down condition was his complacent attitude towards work, and that of existence in general. When he must need exert himself he seemed to be able to make out with the least possible waste of energy.

## BRUTE WILFULNESS

A neighbor of ours made his earlier trips away from home in an ox-drawn lynch-pin wagon with a cleated board laid across the wagon-box for a seat. He rode quite comfortably he thought, and he resented seeing people so ease-loving, so ready to baby themselves as to invest their hard earned dollars in the new-fangled seats with springs. However, like the rest who are drawn almost imperceptibly, yet irresistibly, into the new order of things, he lived to become the owner of a spring-seat himself, then a light wagon, yes, even a buggy and a tip-top one at that; nor was this all — an



automobile was seen to glide in and out of the homestead, duly in line with the times.

But, to return to those wilful bovines of long ago. On one of his trips to Nevada our friend had an awkward experience with his usually tractable ox-team. Otherwise reasonable enough the animals now took some notions that were far from agreeable to the driver. He had offered them water by the hogshead on the way, and according to precedent they should be fully appeased; but things are not always gauged by what has gone before. Spying a creek not far from the road they became interested, and gradually veered to it in spite of orders to the contrary by the driver. It was like addressing the Sphinx; the stubborn pair pursued their course unimpressed, intent on the object of their desire. All that the occupant of the wagon found himself able to do, was to cling to his seat and await developments. These materialized directly in the form of a nearly overturned wagon as the canny beasts lurched sideways in their effort to reach the water beneath the bank of the creek. Meanwhile, the passenger had all he could do to keep his balance in the careening vehicle, which by now was wobbling dangerously; and it was not easy to right it again, though the oxen became quite docile and well-behaved after they had slaked their thirst. What makes a man the more exasperated in any such futile effort to control the situation, is that he is so completely left out of account by the chief actors; all he can do is to nurse his own impotency, frantic gesticulations and emphatic language to the contrary.

#### SWATTING THE LAGGARDS

Usually when driving ox-teams in the early days, especially when there were animals hitched in the lead, the driver provided himself with a long-handled whip-lash with which he touched up possible laggards. The driver might shout or "gee-haw" with all the force of his lungs, but unless prodded along by the guiding pole, or cracks of the whip, the easy-going

brutes would slow down to snail's pace, and an invigorating swat from the lash would have to be applied to quicken their motion. Occasionally there were drivers who dispensed with the rod and by being kind, yet firm, in the training of their teams, got about as much service from them as those who administered punishment. Store Per, for instance, who was said to have had the finest ox-team ever to come out from the Fox river settlement in Illinois, never used a whip, but might rap his oxen with his bare hands to rouse them to their task. An expert whip-handler plied the scourge so dexterously that he could pick off a fly, and the cracks of his lash resounded afar, like to the detonation of small fire-arms.

Canute Phillops was an adept with the lash, and his animals were trained to respect it and well knew the portent of its song. However, being a good and humane driver he did not ply it unnecessarily. Though usually sure of his hand, it happened once that a particularly graceful flourish of the whip went wrong. What was only intended as a feint to wake up the ox-team led well-nigh to a tragedy, for the darting whip-tail sped amiss and nearly whisked out one of Aunt Helga's eyes. Helga occupied the seat beside Canute and the miscalculated stroke caused a wound which left a noticeable scar, a mark she carried to the grave. Canute, that staunch soldier, found he had as much need of courage to bear up under the reproach of his own grave mischance, as had been required in the heat of battle. Helga would hear of no blame directed at her companion for the accident, and regarded her surroundings as benevolently with her whip-scarred eye as before without such blemish.

#### BEHIND THE TIMES

Mr. Hans Stenberg, an early settler who lived on his farm five and one half miles northeast of Story City, was a good neighbor and diligent withal, but he failed to be entirely up to date in respect to his driving outfits. Let it be said, however, that this did not

interfere with his zeal for things pertaining to the spirit, for after all his neighbors had acquired horses he stuck to his ox-team and labored along as faithfully as any in the Sunday morning procession on the way to worship. When the horse-teams were started on a trot, the devoted ox-team was urged to follow suit and humped on most ungracefully and perhaps not too willingly. As the grotesque cavalcade drew nigh the ox-contingent gave reminder of the church processions of the very earliest comers when oxen predominated, and induced both smiles and tears in surviving onlookers. Stenberg seemed happily resigned to his yoke, being loth to make change. He typified our own general attitude of a few short years ago when we clung to our horse-drawn vehicles and scoffed at the idea of exchanging them for "flivvers" and the like. We may some day come to realize that progress has no set limits, and that it is well for us to learn to adjust ourselves sensibly according to its development.

#### LONGHORNS YOKED, TOO

Long-horned ox-teams were put to the yoke in their day, but record of their ancestry is not easily available. It was interesting to hear the account of Mrs. Sebastian Mackey concerning her husband's cattle-buying expeditions, wherein she made mention of purchases of long-horned Texas cattle. It is likely that longhorns such as these were retained locally by some to be domesticated and trained to serve in the ox-yoke.

The village of Mackey situated about halfway between Story City and Boone was named after the Mackeys, and they not only acquired landed possessions in the vicinity, but Mr. Mackey also engaged in the buying and selling of livestock on a large scale. As railroads were few and far apart he would ride his pony for hundreds of miles in different directions in quest of stock. Once he went South beyond the Mason and Dixon line and purchased and rounded up an enormous herd of cattle. As this occurred just

after the Civil war he was obliged to make many detours in his journeys on account of unsettler conditions, and therefore occasionally found himself completely severed from home communication and the world at large. At one time his wife became genuinely alarmed about him, having received no news of him for weeks. Hoping to hear from him she drove to Boone day after day, and in her efforts to locate him spent twenty-two dollars in telegrams. When he finally returned he brought in a herd of seven hundred cattle, many being long-horned Texas steers. When these were headed for the stock-yards at Boone, the various loafers hanging around the cattle pens fled in terror. Some of the cattle were sold to outside buyers, some were held by himself, while the remainder was disposed of among local purchasers. During the intervening years that have elapsed since Sebastian Mackey's first cattle deals were made, great changes have taken place in the live-stock industry, and the mammoth-horned Texas steer is no longer in evidence among us except as a possible rarity, or as a museum piece. And this applies practically to all ox-teams as well.

#### HERDING AND GRAZING AREAS

Our main surrounding territory was known as the west and east prairie, the Skunk river forming the dividing line. In a westerly and northerly direction, except for the small lakes, Wall lake, Goose lake, and the one-time Clear lake, also some marshy places, the prairie remained unbroken in a broad area leading mostly northwestward to the Boone river. Toward the southwest lay large acreages of rather low, level land, often difficult of passage, with Squaw creek beyond. The prairie on the opposite side of the Skunk river undulated attractively eastward toward the Iowa river, and was traversed a few miles beyond the former stream from north to south by Long Dick creek and Bear creek respectively, both veering westward on their way south to empty into the river. There were



few swamps, though the area contained a considerable number of ponds and large grassy sloughs. The district was well suited for stock pasturage, and upon this vast grazing area, east and west of the river, herders performed their exploits, and the cattle found sustenance from early spring and summer until the grass withered in the autumn. Naturally, as time went on, the grazing territory dwindled, as more and more settlers came in and nibbled off each a piece of the land in the great prairie pasture.

#### "FETCHING HOME" THE CATTLE

An older brother, Peter, had a knack of telling interestingly of his experiences with cattle turned to graze on the prairie that lay east of us. He spoke of it as a privilege to have lived through the era of change from the winding prairie trails and cattle paths to the modern highways on every section line; and of noting the passing of the scrub cow — she covered twenty or more miles a day when grazing — to be replaced by the grade or pure-bred home-pastured cow of today.

When "fetching home" the cattle the neighbor children would foregather toward evening on a high hill about a mile east of our place to scan the billowing prairie to locate, if possible, the collective herd. If the cattle were not seen, a flat stone would be spit upon and tossed in the air and the position it took on falling to the ground indicated the direction for search to locate them. Their improvised talisman often proved unreliable enough. When possible, cattle paths were followed, single file, to insure fairly comfortable footing for bare feet, and to avoid the sharp stubble frequently met with in burnt areas.

#### TRUANT ANIMALS

A truant among our cattle was a cow mainly black of color, but with a saddle-like band of white about her middle; and to denote her peculiar color-mark mother had named her "Salrei." She was the acknowledged leader of our own and our neighbors' cat-

tle, and she was best satisfied when inviting herself to choice grass-plots as far from home as possible. The trusting herd would usually amble along in her wake. Sometimes she slipped away from the crowd accompanied by a few proved herd-mates to enjoy, if possible, super-delectable grazing grounds. On such occasions there followed the inevitable hunt to locate the truants.

One evening some of the home cattle were missing from the general herd and both my elder brothers, Peter and Lewis, had to search for them while their more fortunate neighbor companions rounded up their charges and started for home. It was, of course, Salrei and some of her more devoted followers that were missing. The searchers scurried about for miles in their hunt, but found no cows. Finally they made for the Lone Tree, a great solitary elm near Long Dick creek, a noble landmark indeed, but here, too, they were disappointed in their quest. The sun had gone down, twilight came on and fog formed along the creek bottom. The evening bugs started their doleful chorus, fantastic figures were taking form, and somebody's goose-flesh asserted itself. Darkness was enveloping the scene and the bewildered searchers were all of five miles away from home! Though scared and discouraged they continued on the look-out, hoping against hope that kind fortune might cause them to bump into those strays. And that is what happened. Out of the gloom emerged Salrei herself with head grandly erect in the lead of her band and intent on home. The heartened herders gladly fell in with the procession. Winding trails along higher land, necessitating many detours, had been formed by the cattle in avoidance of the low places. The constant change of direction made it difficult for the barefoot followers in the rear to hang onto the herd in the dark. Meanwhile they could hear the animals' regular ankle-chirrup as, single-file, these marched confidently ahead, sure of their course. The twain tried

to hearten themselves by singing, hoping, too, that father by happy chance might be abroad and hear their voices. Feeling decidedly jumpy their vocal chords functioned poorly at first as they sang shakily, "Come ye sinners poor and needy." When, increasing in confidence, their voices rose in the song "There is a Happy Land far, far away," they were rewarded by hearing a shout, and soon they were happily joined with father who, alarmed at their absence, had started out to look for them.

#### OUT IN THE STORM

Continuing the "telling," our story includes the occurrence of father's absence one day, and that the two elder boys in the family were left to do the chores. Lewis, the oldest, and a neighbor boy, Charley Charlson, went toward evening to fetch the cattle. As a storm appeared to be in the offing mother was disturbed; and she cast expectant glances toward the prairie whence the boys were expected to make prompt return with the herd. She was concerned about father, too, out on the open road, though she knew he would note the cloud-bank in the west and make all speed for home, or seek safety elsewhere.

Tensely watching, we at home finally discerned the advance cow in the expected bunch of cattle appear on the hill a quarter of a mile east of us. But the cow was not Salrei! We realized at once what this portended; if she was not in the lead she had separated from the herd. Noting presently that one of the Charlson cows, too, was missing, we felt somewhat relieved, reckoning that the boys were together out on the prairie. The rain soon came down in torrents, and the wind blew so furiously that a window was torn out of its newly made casement and flung across the room. Blinding lightning-flashes and terrific crashes of thunder increased our concern for those abroad in the storm. As the clouds parted the red glare of the sun cast its reflection in scattered sheets of water where before had been dry land.

Just before dark we heard Salrei give her signal of approach, and as the last of her train appeared over the hill two bedraggled herdsman drew in sight. The boys related that when the storm came upon them it flung them to the ground, and they laid hold of the grass lest they be swept away. They dared scarcely open their faces for the downpour of rain so filled the atmosphere that it threatened to smother them, so they said; and Charley, the facetious one, remarked that the lightning played and sparkled in his red hair-stubble so fearfully that he thought he was "a goner."

#### DAY BY DAY HERDING

As more settlers took up land, the prairie receded further and further away from the older homesteads, nearer the river and timber, and so it fell to the lot of someone in our family to do steady herding for ourselves and for several of our neighbors throughout the grazing season. The lot usually fell to Peter to go day after day without company on those lonely vigils among the hills. He was overjoyed when a younger brother, the writer, was allowed to patter along for company. He would complain that the powerful bulls roaming the prairie caused him much worry and dread. They were highly belligerent and active, and were constantly spoiling for a fight with those of their kind. On a still evening some bold champion might be heard bellowing challenge after challenge, which would soon be answered in defiance by other entrants in the fray till pandemonium reigned on the prairie. The stentorian chorus made our herder doubly fearsome when alone; and even when joined by a companion there was strong mutual desire to round up their charges without delay for the homeward drive and be away from the arena of strife on the plains. They scurried around barefooted, stubbed their toes, bled and left the sharp stubble crimson, froze when they stepped on snakes and toads; however, with their flocks finally bunched they



had little trouble in guiding them in a common direction.

Herding became somewhat easier when father allowed the oldest boys to ride our good old mare Flora. Both boys and girls those days were quite expert at bareback riding. One summer Peter rode Flora so regularly in this fashion that her back got sore. He was less apprehensive about the bulls when on horseback, nor did the bunches of young horses let loose on the prairie pasturage cause him the usual concern. They generally held together in one common herd, and became semi-wild during the long period of unrestrained freedom. During still evenings we could hear the thunder of their hoofs afar as they raced from place to place among the hills. When they were startled into a stampede, and our herder was nigh and on foot, he was in mortal terror lest he be caught helpless in their path. Among these horses were seen grade Percherons, with sprinklings of Morgans, Hambletonians, and Shires.

#### LARGE SCALE HERDING

At a later period the Rorem brothers herded on a large scale on the remaining open prairie adjacent to the section where is now situated the town of Radcliffe. John Musland, who had lost an arm in a molasses press, could handle his mount as well as his whip-hand to advantage and became an expert prairie herdsman. While the milk cows were now mostly kept in home pastures, young cattle would be entrusted to the herder's care for a certain price throughout the grazing season. Once the large Rorem herd startled by snorting horses, stampeded, and several cattle were killed as they broke frenziedly through the corral where they were penned during night-time. Later, "Hans the herder" gathered together cattle in the community and herded them for so much per head during the grazing season as far north as Wright county.

## RESTLESS BULLS WANDERED

Though cows might choose to absent themselves from the home herds occasionally, they would join them again before long. Bulls, however, were more fickle and took up with strange herds for indefinite periods. Even in winter bulls were known to leave their stalls and seek admittance in other stables. Once when a blizzard had blanketed the landscape deeply with snow a bull was impelled to wander abroad for a look-around and thereupon executed a nose-dive into the midst of a neighbor's cows housed in a drift-covered straw-shed. The owner sat milking and was surprised at the precipitate advent of the visitor.

## ADVENTUROUS RAMS AND BOARS

A few sheep were kept in the good old days, and if dogs didn't chase them and scatter them afar they remained home-bodies well content with their lot. Exceptions took place among rams that slipped away from the home flock to make acquaintance with other sheep in the neighborhood. One night as a neighbor returned to his home after an extended trip, and was peering around the premises, taking note of the animals and things in general, he met with an unexpected rebuff. On passing through a dark stable he was suddenly laid low by a terrific bump on one of his legs. Hastening to crawl out and away he was abetted from behind by an unseen power, and little time was lost by him in making his exit. It was the neighbor's ram that resented the owner's intrusion during the former's nocturnal presence in the sheepfold; wherefore the attack. The unsuspecting observer, though within his rights, received punishment that laid him up for weeks. Wool was carded, spun and knit at home, or taken to Boone for sale. Mutton was appetizing to many, but was not relished by some on account of its flavor.

Boars poked their snouts through their enclosures, worked themselves out, and sought retreat in the tim-

ber where they became the forerunners of wild hogs that found sustenance and shelter there. No other domestic animal reverted to the wild in these parts.

### THE MISSING HORSES

Horses sometimes hied themselves away from the home premises, but were too valuable to be left at large, except for limited periods. James Brown's experience with a missing team is of interest. Brown had bought his first team of horses (1856) at Des Moines, then a small river town consisting mostly of log houses. Some time later, during a heavy thunderstorm at night, the horses left their unfenced prairie pasture and sought shelter further east in the Skunk river timber. The wind blew from the Northwest and it developed that it had caused them to veer further eastward, even beyond the river, where they had been seen grazing. As he had no riding horse Brown walked miles through the tall prairie grasses the following day in futile search of them. Seeing the predicament he was in, W. R. Dolittle, a neighbor, loaned his horseless friend a good mount, which enabled him to start hunting the strays in real earnest.

Scouring the immediate territory he discovered places where the animals had been nibbling grass on freshly grown plots of newly burnt prairie, but not a shadow of the fugitives themselves. Continuing on he learned from a newly arrived settler that a pair of strange horses had been seen beyond Nevada heading in a southeasterly direction. Evidently their instinct led them in the direction of an earlier home. Occasionally during his hunt Brown would meet with people who had seen some such horses as he described feeding on freshly green tracts of prairie grass. He did not attempt to head them off by taking short-cuts but kept doggedly to what appeared to him to be their trail. However, the business looked hopeless enough even with such seeming clues, and he felt himself to be in a fix as of a person hunting for a needle, if not two, in a haystack.

One night he took lodging with a German who, preferably, spoke his own lingo, and as he, Brown, had acquired this language back east in Pennsylvania, it so delighted the host to exercise his native tongue that they sat up till late engaged in conversation. Stepping out into the moonlight during a lull in their talk what did they see but two horses, a black and a white, the very strays themselves, passing by at that moment. Brown lost no time in giving chase. One of the horses was secured readily, but the other had always been hard to catch at best, and they failed to corral him that night. However, he knew his master by daylight and came to his hand willingly.

The capture of the runaway pair took place southeast of Sigourney, Keokuk county. The hunt had extended over two weeks and the young wife, who had been left alone at home, was naturally much worried about the lengthy absence of her husband and feared the worst. But the weeks of suspense and gloom were ended upon her mate's successful return, and were followed by days and days of joy and gladness.

#### FORAGING PORKERS

Theodore Baldus, pioneer resident and Civil war veteran, related that lack of fences, or poorly kept enclosures, often invited livestock to venture abroad and to become local nuisances in the early days. Not only cattle, but droves of foraging porkers would pry around and stick their inquisitive snouts into places where they were far from welcome. Once Jonah Griffith's herd of swine spilled over into a patch of barley belonging to a neighbor, and while rummaging busily about one of the sauciest ones got a bullet through the head for its pains. The fellow who did the shooting, having been highly incensed at the trespass felt, nevertheless, that his reprisal had been somewhat drastic and urged Griffith to take half of the murdered beast by way of atonement. Considering the damage done to his neighbor Griffith accepted the peace offering after some parleying, though add-



ing rather testily that an animal dispatched in such manner would make the "skillet stink."

#### THE CHEESE FACTORY'S HERD

Rasmus Sheldall relates that in early pioneer times a Mr. Burr of the U.S. Postal Department established a large cheese factory some six miles east of the present town of Randall. He bought up considerable land on which to care for the cattle providing the milk supply. As the owner could not always give the enterprise personal attention it made but poor headway, the main drawback being unreliable help. The men entrusted with the work were, in some instances, neither capable nor faithful; hence the ill-success. Not being always watchfully tended some of the animals strayed, and the result was that not a few succumbed during inclement weather and were found dead here and there on the prairie. As remembered by Mr. Sheldall, Mr. Burr eventually sold his holdings to incoming settlers.

#### THE ANIMAL DOCTOR

The domestic animal hereabouts in the long ago had a great friend in our good neighbor Rasmus Sheldall who, when they were ailing, doctored them with divers home remedies and a few added ingredients administered with excellent understanding. When our animals were sick we would call on him for help, and his soothing manner and patient ministrations, be it dog or lamb, horse or cow, pig or fowl, could hardly fail in bringing salutary results. Remuneration for his trouble seemed to be his least concern. Through his intelligent and sympathetic solicitude for his charges he came to understand their ailments without any learned diagnosis. Nor did it take a graduate pharmacist to decipher his prescriptions. Nature cures were preferable. Salts and simple palliative lotions, home-made poultices and plenty of warm water, together with kneading, rubbing and exercise, performed wonders for him. Instead of dosing certain ill-conditioned animals with medicinal concoctions, not infrequently, he

would just let the poor creatures alone, merely recommending that they be given a lengthy sojourn with "Dr. Green" in the summer pasture. In time he became a licensed veterinarian, which, however, did not imply that he necessarily discarded the homely, time-tried remedies of his early practice.

New conditions have brought added animal ailments and often in spite of modern preventive measures, and it may well be that our old-time veterinarian found himself in a quandary to combat them. However, he joined in the more up-to-date eradication of disease to the best of his ability. Sheldall met the needs of his particular time; and he will be remembered not only for his friendly feeling for the farmyard folk, but for his kindly human approach. He used to say that in the days of his early activities there were not so many settlers hereabouts as to make acquaintance and mutual helpfulness impossible on account of numbers, or too difficult because of distant places of abode.

#### HORSEBACK RIDERS

Good horseback riders were common among the pioneers, and many were the local races run to test out the speed and endurance of favorite steeds. The Boyd brothers were among the foremost participants in this vicinity. Martha Ballard-Fergusson related that, as a pioneer teacher, 1863, she rode back and forth between her home and the Sheldall schoolhouse, a distance of eight miles, on a horse stricken with the heaves. He was safe, but slow, and she had ample opportunity each trip to check and re-check the scenery as they jogged leisurely on along the roadside. Thus did the intrepid maidens of long ago help establish the commonwealth faithfully, even heroically, in war and peace.

#### INDIAN SCOUTS ON HORSEBACK

Sometimes lengthy horseback journeys were taken as, for instance, the one by Joe Anderson and his brother during the time of the Spirit Lake Massacre. Rasmus Sheldall related that during this Indian upris-

ing there was a strong sentiment at Story City in favor of fortifying the larger buildings in case of attack, but nothing came of it. Rasmus recalled that Joe and his brother rode their horses a considerable distance northwards to inquire into the war rumors, so as to give the settlers warning in case of possible danger of attack or molestation of any kind. Donning Indian garb for reasons best known to himself, Joe narrowly escaped being shot by his own brother who, unknowing as to his change of dress, mistook him for a redskin.

#### HORSE THIEF SUSPECTS

During these troublous times a gang of outlaws, surmised by some to be of a type such as the James brothers, and even linked to this outfit, filtered into the deep timber by wagon team and horseback and camped not far from the Sheldall homestead. One of the Sheldalls loitered around, but as he was only a youngster the party took little notice of him. Watching his chance when nobody was looking he clambered up the front part of one of their wagons and, peeping in, saw stacks of guns, saddles and other accouterments of their sinister-looking business. During their unwelcome presence in the vicinity there was fear and uneasiness in the neighborhood, and the horses were especially well guarded. Several of the neighbors brought their horses to Lars Henryson's barn, one of the first and best in this section, to be kept there at night for safety. Mr. Henryson had taken the precaution to place an improvised safety lock on his barn door to hinder unwanted prowlers from entering.

One night in particular some of the neighbors had stayed on watch till late, being apprehensive from what they had observed during the preceding day that a raid might be imminent. Sure enough, it turned out that several suspicious-looking figures were discerned skulking around in the dark, and no doubt with sinister intent. One of Henryson's sons came

near discharging his gun, but Sivert Knutson warned against such rashness, fearing that a shot might infuriate the rascals and bring on an attack. The older men were much alarmed, but their sons, being eager for action, were less cautious and scarcely aware of the gravity of the situation. Evidently the stealthy trespassers had noted the log-chain which secured the barn door, as well as other preparations for defence, for baffled, they slunk away into the night.

Throughout the Civil war horse-stealing was more than merely that of an occasional occurrence. In the last year of this conflict thieves raided the stables of three of our neighbors and got away with several horses, of which only one was said to have been recovered. The sheriff of Story county formed a posse to apprehend the evil doers and overtook them, but they escaped after a gun-skirmish leaving one of the sheriff's deputies dead on the field.

The raid left much of sorrow and suffering in its wake, grief at the untimely end of a young man of promise, and distress for those who depended largely on their teams for a livelihood. And what of the dire retribution facing the thieving wretches themselves, not to speak of the baneful reflection of their foul deeds cast upon their unfortunate kindred! Verily, the crimes of yesterday, too, reaped their full and fearsome harvest, and hence, then as now, did not pay.

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### "A Prayer of St. Francis"

Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith. Lord, where there is despair, let us sow hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness let us sow joy. Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace.

—Harris Banks.



## Lands of Pony Creek

By O. J. PRUITT<sup>1</sup>

Back in 1847, before the Pottawattamie were moved to Kansas, the Powie brothers, Sam and Page, lived for ten years along Pony Creek. The government had provided log cabins, furnished a farm instructor in a futile try to teach the Indians to be self-supporting. The Indians found the streams teeming with fish. Wild game was plentiful. Wild fowl reared their broods in the ponds and lake of the Missouri river bottom.

From the Pony creek area the distance to Old St. Mary's was exactly six miles over the main axis of the bluffs. To travel the route one goes over Danger hill, down a two mile canyon, thence across the bottoms.

Billy Caldwell (Sagonah) was the chief of these Indians, while Waubonsie governed those in Fremont county and "Big Foot" those along the Nishnabotna river in Cass county.

St. Mary's was the place from which the Indians drew their annuities. The supplies came up the river by boat from St. Louis.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs at Washington, after having ordered the Pottawattamie away from the area of Ft. Dearborn, had eventually ejected them by a long hot dry and dusty march overland to Kansas. Many of the aged and infants died.

The contingent to West Iowa were brought by boat to the Black Snake hills of Missouri; thence marched to Southwest Iowa. These suffered no casualties. After the bitter treatment of the Indians of North Indi-

<sup>1</sup> The author regards "Grandma" Kellogg as an authentic authority upon Pottawattamie Indian lore, having lived right among them many years along Pony creek, now a Mecca for Indian relic collectors and of prehistoric bones and teeth. Mr. Pruitt has spent as many as 80 days in a single season interviewing old timers in the area and collecting artifacts.

ana, the government relented and provided the Southwest Iowa Indians with all needed supplies.

P. J. DeSmet was sent to Council Bluffs to minister to the Indians. DeSmet was known as the Black Robe. There is no record that DeSmet ever visited the Indians along Pony creek, but he often called upon Peter Sarpy, who operated a ferry at Trader's Point,



A Pottawattamie Village

about two miles by river above St. Mary's. Since DeSmet knew the population of the Indians, it is presumed he did visit those along Pony creek.

Mrs. Wilson, the granddaughter of the first white settler, still resides in the valley. She knows the history, that portion which relates to persons rather than statistics, and in particular stories about Indians. It is to her the writer is indebted for this sketch of the Powie brothers.

Mrs. Wilson is one of the best story tellers the writer has ever met. She has a peculiar style all her

own. It is by acting out the details, emphasizing and stressing points and imitating the voices of characters.

Mrs. Wilson is the granddaughter of Mrs. (Grandma) Jim Kellogg. The Kelloggs were the first settlers in the area. Mrs. Kellogg is the heroine of another story in which she gave an Indian the hot foot by defending herself with a kettle of boiling water.

#### LIQUOR AND LAZINESS RULED

Now, Sam Powie was a very large and tall Indian, while his brother, Page, was short, skinny and rather wiry. Sam was about fifty, fat and lazy. He recently had taken as a wife a squaw about fifteen years younger and generously had given the older squaw to Page. This arrangement was a mutual affair. Both squaws were of the nagging type. They seemed never to be satisfied with their men. They insisted the men should take interest in the farm instructor's activities instead of whiling away their time hunting and fishing and making trips to river towns to get counter-brand fire water. They had swapped about all their possessions for liquor, even to the horses the government had provided for them. The agent had rebuked them, threatened to withdraw the supplies and to prosecute them for selling the horses. As a punishment Sam was given another old horse, told to plow some ground and plant corn, beans, etc.

So, in order to conceive what a punishment it was, let us imagine old Sam or Page leading the horse drawing a plow, held by the squaw. The sun beat down on the hill side of the lands of Pony creek; the temperature is near 100 degrees in the shade; overhead golden-headed eagles are circling, while from afar is heard the whistle of a steamboat.

To get into this sort of a mood, one should traverse the valley, thence the scenic drive atop the bluffs and view the landscape to the west. The Missouri river is a silver ribbon streak, and in the background the verdure bluffs of the Nebraska shore.

All this was one hundred and five years ago. Noth-

ing is in Pony creek district today. No log cabins, no evidence other than Indian artifacts and potsherds. Instead are farm houses, barns and silos and a class of white folk who toil incessantly to make a living from the eroding land. The virgin timber of days of old has been removed and the present growth is of younger age, with here and there an older one spared by axe, such as hangman's tree on the east side of Danger Hill, where two horse thieves swung to eternity.

#### CUP OF GINGER SAVED SAM

One date in a May, Sam's squaw gathered a mess of wild mustard greens and cooked them with a ham bone. She made some corn pone and placed the meal before Sam, who ate of it greedily and washed the whole down with a quart of fresh buttermilk. Then he lay down to snooze, but the combination of food denied him the pleasure. He was seized with a terrific "tummy ache." He rolled and tossed and in the throes of agony begged the squaw to stab him in the abdomen with a butcher knife. The squaw refused, knowing it meant death and she wanted no part of it. So she ran across the foot-log with a pole hand rail to the Kelloggs' cabin some three hundred yards distant across the creek. In broken English she told how sick Sam was and was given a tablespoon of ginger in a teacup and told to make a tea and dose Sam. It relieved Sam and along toward nightfall he sat up, lit his pipe and declared never again would he indulge in eating mustard greens. The squaw asked him to cut some firewood for the preparing of the morning meal. He refused, "What! after I have been so sick. I don't care if I never eat again. If you have to have wood, cut it yourself." She did and carried it into the cabin.

Let us digress for the moment to prepare the reader for what followed that night about midnight. It had been a trying day of worry and excitement. The run to the Kelloggs and Sam carrying on while in the great



pain brought on the climax told in the last paragraph.

The squaw aroused Sam from his slumber at midnight and sent him hurrying to the Kelloggs for Grandma Kellogg. Mr. Kellogg accompanied her to see that she got across the foot logs safely. Midwife Grandma Kellogg delivered a baby girl of Mrs. Sam Powie. Old Sam, as he was wont to be called by the neighbors, was so elated that he brought out his newest and finest pipe and offered it to Mr. Kellogg, who refused saying, "I want no part of the Devil weed." Mr. Kellogg was a devout Christian and he raised all his children in the good old Baptist belief in the Maker of mankind.

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## CHILDREN

Now minds run backward to the day  
When with the Master gathered round  
Were eager ones to hear Him say  
Where peace or comfort might be found.

The chosen ones, His faithful few,  
Stood closely by. With jealous care  
To miss no word, to render true  
The service that was theirs to share.

When mothers in their faith profound  
Brought babes for Him to touch and bless,  
The elders standing close around  
Denied them in their eagerness.

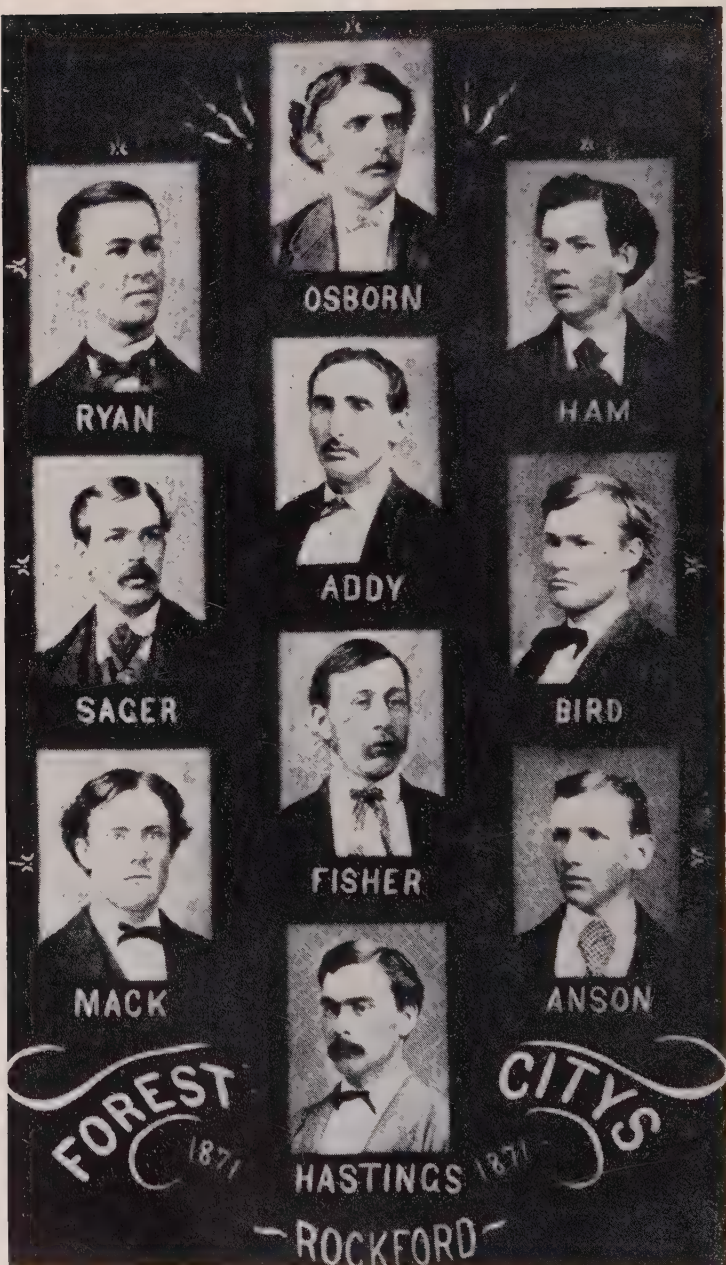
But He rebuked them with a smile,  
And near to Him the children bade.  
As close He held them for the while,  
He said: "For of such as these is Heaven made."

Now children of the older years,  
Though far from Him their paths have strayed,  
With souls contrite through care and fears  
Seek comfort in a home so made.

Nor in the fullness of His grace  
Will He deny their tears and pleas.  
They with the children find a place  
For faith and worship at His knees.

—Ernest R. Moore





*Courtesy of Illinois State Historical Library*

ANSON'S FIRST YEAR AS A PROFESSIONAL  
Signed With Rockford in 1871

# "Cap" Anson's First Contract

By DR. ROGER H. VAN BOLT

*Illinois State Historical Library*

Ever since the Civil war, baseball has been part and parcel of the sporting scene. Young men who show unusual ability in the game in high schools and colleges are enticed by fabulous offers to sign professional contracts. Those who accept become the "bonus babies" of the current season. A somewhat similar label was applied in 1871 to a gangling youth from Iowa who came to Rockford, Illinois, to play professional baseball — "The Marshalltown Infant." His first professional contract called for a salary of \$66.66 per month during the playing season. Thus began the illustrious career of Adrian Constantine Anson, better known as "Cap" Anson. It was twenty-seven years later that this blond giant completed the terms of his last contract.

Rockford in 1871 was a rather quiet and unassuming town of about 11,000 people. But it was known far and wide to baseball "cranks" (later they became "fans") as the home of the Forest City nine. The baseball club had been organized in 1865 under the presidency of H. H. ("Hi") Waldo, the local bookseller and erstwhile abolitionist. But the team's national reputation was not established until 1867. During that summer, the powerful Washington Nationals raised \$5,000 to tour the country. This aggregation of government clerks and college students won every game on the trip except one. Its lone defeat came at the hands of the Forest City nine. Rockford was too far west so the game was played in Chicago. The upstarts from the Illinois prairies, who were really to be a warm-up for a game the next day with the Chicago Excelsiors, were led by a seventeen-year-old youth from Byron, Illinois — Albert G. Spaulding,



who pitched his team to a 29-23 victory. From that day, the team of amateurs from Rockford was to be reckoned with in the eyes of the enthusiasts of the game. An even greater day dawned in 1870 when the Forest Citys defeated the famous Cincinnati Red Stockings by a score of 12 to 5.

It was not surprising that when the National Association of Professional Baseball Players was organized early in 1871, that Rockford was one of the nine original members of the league. Even before the season began the Forest City Club was in trouble. Its stars, Albert G. Spaulding, Fred Cone, and Roscoe Barnes were lured to Boston to play for the Red Stockings. Interest waned, and it was soon apparent that Rockford was no longer a baseball power. This first season of the professional baseball league ended with the Forest Citys being able to claim one dubious distinction: It was the first team to finish last in the history of the league — the original cellar team. This dismal showing brought a quick end to major league baseball in Forest City. From then on it was minor league territory.

Rockford's star had fallen, but its third baseman was just beginning to rise. The next season found him in Philadelphia. There he stayed until 1876 when he came to Chicago. Here he remained as first baseman and manager until 1898. "Baby" Anson became "Cap" Anson and finally "Old Anse" or "Pop." When he retired, his Chicago Colts were promptly labeled "The Orphans."

#### ANSON ACHIEVED DISTINCTION

Anson's diamond achievements were many. First of all, he stayed around a long time — he was an active player in professional baseball for twenty-seven years. At the time of his retirement he was forty-seven years old. Cap was a hitter, too. His lifetime batting average was .339. Four times he led the National League and twice his average was over .400. Always a strong finisher, he batted .302 in his last season at Chicago.

Although he was not a flawless fielder, he could and did play any position well. His most disastrous experiences in the field came in the ill-fated world championships of 1885. There were 100 errors — and 97 hits — in the seven games and Anson contributed his share. He booted four chances in each of the last two games. He has also been labeled the first great manager. His Chicago team won five world championships in his first six seasons. Then came a drought of fifteen years.

Six feet two, and 220 pounds, he was the dominating figure on the diamond. His nickname, "Cap," was more than a mere title. For example, he once chased the owner of the Chicago team, Spalding, off the field during an argument. Anse was the first to make use of the baselines as a coaching box, and when aroused, the *New York Times* reported that "he had a voice in his impassioned moments like a hundred bulls of Bashan." Always the colorful player, Cap was the pride of sports-writers and fans alike. He inspired Eugene Field to describe him poetically:

Lo! from the tribunals on the bleachers comes a shout,  
Beseeching bold Ansonius to line 'em out;  
And as Apollo's flying chariot cleaves the sky,  
So stanch Ansonius lifts the brightened ball on high.

But Mr. Dooley's creator, Finley Peter Dunne, was not as kind in his word picture:

Capt. Anson marched to the bat to the music of rounds of applause, and found a basket of flowers at the home plate. Anson looked a trifle redder than usual, and with his blue suit and white stockings, might have gone to the top of the capitol building as an American flag. He struck out vigorously and the audience laughed him another shade redder.

Cap was not one to shrink from his critics, however. In later years when his age became a target, Anson appeared one afternoon in Boston with his chin adorned by white whiskers — he played errorless ball that day.

## ACTOR AND POLITICIAN IN LATER YEARS

Off the diamond his exploits included the stage. He was the star of a baseball play called "The Runaway Colt," and also appeared in a slapstick vaudeville act during which he sang a song with others entitled "We're Ten Chubelin Tipperary Turks." His costume included green whiskers. As late as 1910 he could be seen on the New England circuits.

In 1905, Anson was swept into political office as City Clerk of Chicago. Although he was prominent in Democratic affairs for several years his record has long been forgotten. Only his statement when notified of his election seems to have survived. He told the press, "I'm just as pleased as if I'd won another penant." Baseball, not politics, was his game.

Business ventures in Chicago kept Anson busy in his later years. For a time he was a bottler of ginger beer. The product was so explosive, however, that he later reported that he feared to walk the streets lest he be pointed out as a purveyor of dynamite. Cap managed billiard parlors, bowling alleys, ice rinks, toboggan slides and golf courses. "Capt. Anson's indestructible score card" was another of his enterprises. In 1900, his memoirs appeared in the booksellers' stalls. It was not a distinguished work. These excursions were extracurricular activities for "Old Anse" for his heart was in baseball.

Before his death in 1922, Cap used to say that his epitaph was going to be: "Here lies a man who batted .300." Many years later Baseball's Hall of Fame was more eloquent. His plaque at Cooperstown, New York, reads: "the greatest hitter and greatest national league player-manager of the 19th century."

## FIRST CONTRACT AT ROCKFORD

Although Adrian C. Anson played baseball around the world, he never forgot his first contract. "It was a fairly good salary for a ball player," he said, "and especially one who was only eighteen years old and a green country lad at that." Here is Cap's first pro-

fessional contract which was recently acquired at the Illinois State Historical Library:

Memorandum of Agreement: made and entered into, this 31 day of March A. D. 1871, by and between John P. Manny, John C. Barbour, Henry W. Price, Hosmer P. Holland and Jerome C. Roberts<sup>1</sup> of the City of Rockford, Illinois, party of the first part: and Adrian C. Anson of Marshalltown, Iowa, party of the second part:

Whereas divers residents of said city of Rockford, have associated themselves and contributed a common fund for the organization and maintenance of a first class base ball club, to be known and called "The Forest City Base Ball Club, of Rockford Illinois":

And whereas the said party of the second part, being desirous of playing in said Club: has represented to the party of the first part that he is a first class base ball player and possessed of the skill, and physically competent to play said game as a member of a first class club:

Now Therefore, this Agreement Witnesseth: That the said party of the second part, in consideration of the premises and of the promises and agreements of the party of the first part, hereinafter expressed, has, and does, covenant and agree, to and with said party of the first part, to play the game of baseball with said Forest City Base Ball Club, and in any position, he may be therein assigned by the Directors of said Club, for and during the season of A. D. 1871, to wit: from April 15 A. D. 1871, to and including October 15 A. D. 1871.

And in further consideration of the premises said party of the second part promises and agrees to keep and observe the following rules of conduct and discipline, viz:

To use his best efforts to advance the interests of said Club, by cheerfull, prompt and respectfull obedience of the Directions and requirements of the Directors thereof, or of any person by said Directors placed in authority over him, as well as the by laws of said Club:

To abstain from the use of alcoholic Liquors: unless medically prescribed, and to conduct himself, both off and on the Ball Ground, in all things like a gentleman.

To report promptly for duty at the grounds of the Club

<sup>1</sup> Manny was a wealthy manufacturer of knife sections for the Manny reapers. His royalties were reputed to have brought him an income of \$60,000 a year. Barbour was a dry goods merchant; Price manufactured boots, shoes and gloves; Holland was an attorney and partner of Manny; and Roberts had been a butter and egg dealer in Rockford for more than twenty years.



for all games, and for practice at the hours designated there for by the officers of the Club, and upon the grounds, to abstain from profane language, Scuffling and light conduct, and to discourage the same in others.

To practice at least two and a half hours per day, on each and every practice day of the Club, and at all times both in games and at practice, to use his best endeavors to perfect himself in play, Always bearing in mind that the object in view in every game is to win.

And in further consideration of the premises said party of the second part promises and agrees that he will make, or procure to be made for him, or in any bet or wager upon the result of any game, or upon the playing of any members of the club, or upon anything connected with any game, in which said Forest City Club, may engage during the time of his engagement here under.

And in Consideration of the premises, said party of the first part promise and agree to pay said party of the second part the sum of Sixty six and two third ( $\$66 \frac{2}{3}$ ) Dollars per month for each and every month of the time he may play with said Forest City Club, payable as follows: to wit: Sixty Six and two third ( $\$66 \frac{2}{3}$ ) Dollars on the 1st day of June A. D. 1871, and sixty six and two third ( $\$66 \frac{2}{3}$ ) Dollars on the first day of each and every month thereafter of the term of his employment, as aforesaid, the balance due to be fully paid on the 1st day of November A. D. 1871.

A. C. ANSON

I. C. BARBOUR  
HOSMER P. HOLLAND

Along with this Anson contract the Historical Library acquired the 1871 contract of Winfield Scott Hastings. He had evidently been with the team for several years and the Forest Citys agreed to pay him \$100 per month. He was twenty-three years old at the time but his baseball career was over at the age of thirty. From Rockford he went to Cleveland in 1872, and after that he jumped from team to team, ending up in 1877 at Cincinnati.

## Anson's Career Story

Marshalltown's product, in the person of the greatest ball player the country has ever known, Capt. Adrian C. Anson, wrote and left to the world a lasting memoir in the publication of an interesting volume entitled "A Ball Player's Career."

Marshalltown watched for three generations the career of "Ada," as they called him, and the player's book dealt largely with early affairs in Marshalltown — the days when the place was a mere village of a few straggling homes. "The game at Marshalltown" was referred to at length in the exhaustive story of the life of the author, it being his birthplace, his boyhood home and where he played his first ball.

"At the time I first appeared upon the scene, the town was in a decidedly embryonic state," he wrote. "Outside of some half-dozen white families that had squatted there, it boasted of no inhabitants save Indians of the Pottawattamie tribe, whose wigwams, or tepees, were scattered here and there upon the prairie and along the banks of the river that then, as now, was not navigable for anything much larger than a flat-bottomed skow.

"The first log cabin that was erected in Marshalltown was built by my father, Henry Anson. He and his father, Warren Anson, his grandfather, Jonathon Anson, and his great-grandfather, Silas Anson, were all born in Dutchess county, New York. They were direct descendants of two brothers who came to this country from England sometime in the seventeenth century.

"My mother's maiden name was Jeanette Rice, and she, like my father, was of English descent; so it can be seen how little Swedish blood there is in my veins, in spite of the nickname of 'the Swede', often applied to me during my ball-playing career, which I fancy, was given me more because of my light hair and ruddy complexion than because of any Swedish characteristics.

"My father homesteaded a tract of land on the site of the present city of Marshalltown, which he laid out and gave the name that it now bears. For a time, it was known as Marshall, being named after the town of Marshall in Michigan, but the syllable 'town' was added and Marshalltown became the name when a post office was applied for and discovery made that already there was a post office of the same name in the state.

#### MARSHALLTOWN'S FIRST WHITE CHILD

"It was no long after the completion of my father's log cabin, that I, the first white child born there, came into the world, the exact date of my advent being April 17, 1852. My brother, Sturgis Anson, who is two years my senior, was born at the old home in Michigan, and I had still another brother, Melville, who died while I was yet a small boy."

The town's growth, the increase in white settlers and troubles with the Indians are mentioned. Old Johnny Green, the chief of the Indians at that time, was recalled as remembered by many of Marshalltown's older citizens, and whose skull was believed by the late Dr. Waters to have been unearthed in the excavation made in building the Iowa Soldiers Home.

Anson mentions his school life, and the times he played "hooky" to play "one old cat" and "soak ball," the game of baseball being then in its infancy elsewhere had not yet reached Marshalltown. "When it did come, many a broken window on Main street the Anson family were responsible for," he related.

Can Anson dates the origin of the Marshalltown Base Ball Club as 1866. Capt. Shaw, Emmet Green, A. B. Cooper, Henry and Sturgis, with himself, were given among the list of these promoters, and special attention paid to the greatest game of the club's existence — with Des Moines, in which the players were stationed as follows:

Kinney Williams, pitcher; Emmet Green, catcher; A. B. Cooper, A. C. Anson and Henry Anson on bases;

Pete Hoskins, short stop; Sam Sager, Sturgis Anson and Milton Ellis in the outfield, with A. J. Cooper, substitute. The game was played in Des Moines, and the victory won by Marshalltown.

The narrative deals extensively with Anson's life with the Chicago league team and its trip around the world, playing with local teams at numerous stopping places and indoctrinating individual players in foreign countries with the intricacies of clever fielding and place hitting. It is illustrated profusely, the frontispiece being a half-tone engraving of the author in his Chicago Uniform. An excellent likeness of Hon. Henry Anson, his father, and the first mayor of Marshalltown, is shown, as also are pictures of Mr. Anson's family and their children, and "Billy" Sunday, with various scenes at places visited by the Chicago club upon its pilgrimages.

A prized exhibit in the Chicago Historical Society's new display is the base ball bat used by Cap. Anson back in 1883 to set an all-times homer record, when he hit five homers in five consecutive times at bat. The display characterized "The National Game" and dramatizes 90 years of professional baseball.

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## Local Community Weathervanes

There were those who, without attaining eminence, were the most prominent citizens in the communities in which they lived and were chiefly instrumental in giving character and direction to social and political affairs. Though people unversed in politics seldom realize it, in a representative government these local leaders of public opinion play roles as indispensable as the more distinguished elective and appointive officers. In fact, without the support and encouragement of these local leaders of public opinion high elective officials would be in the position of a general attempting to lead an army into battle without line officers.

—Arthur T. Vanderbilt in the *South Atlantic Quarterly*.



## *Iowa People and Events . . .*

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### New Basement for Old Capitol

Confusion has existed in the minds of many persons resulting from viewing photographs of the old brick capitol building in Des Moines, once located where the soldier's and sailors' monument now stands across Walnut street south of the present capitol. Some of the photos show that it was a three-story building and some four — but unmistakably the same building. Now, how come? What could be the story back of the three-story photos, for even the one of the blackened ruins after the final fire, shows walls and spires of four stories. It has been puzzling, and the history books are not too revealing as to the enigma.

But all perplexity was removed when the fact was published that a full basement and a new roof were constructed subsequent to the erection of the building. Also, when Walnut street later was lowered, the embankment around the old capitol was partially taken away, and then it appeared to be the first story of a four-story structure, as shown in some of the photos.

William H. Fleming, in his "Autobiography of a Private Secretary," *ANNALS OF IOWA*, Vol. XV, p. 12, briefly refers to this, and how the old structure was "made more secure by the insertion under it a brick basement." Secretary Fleming served under seven governors, and came to be the best posted man in official circles upon state affairs, having personally been active in several capacities during a long official service.

With respect the remodeling of the old capitol, according to Fleming "the former foundation was of stone gotten from points down the Des Moines river. When an attempt was made to put a furnace in the original basement then under the building, the stone was found to be unsound; so, putting in a furnace was found to be something of an uncertain undertaking,

and only enough of the former foundation was removed to admit of a furnace, and that would heat only a part of the edifice."

Regarding the new basement constructed, Fleming continues: "The Twelfth General Assembly appropriated a sum sufficient to put a brick foundation under the building, which was a delicate undertaking. Could the statehouse office force remain in the edifice while it was being undermined? If not, could men be found to do that undermining if those, whose business would require them to remain therein, deemed the house would be unsafe for them to stay in it? The statehouse force remained there, while the walls were supported by block and wedge, until the new basement was fully built in. There were some alarms when the wedges were being knocked out, letting the walls drop a slight space to their proper place. And the work was all accomplished without accident of any kind some time before the Thirteenth General Assembly convened (in 1870)."

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## Sought Senators for Chicago

The passing of Prof. Charles E. Merriam, former political science teacher many years at Chicago university, at a hospital in Rockville, Maryland, after a ten-months illness, marked the close of a colorful life. Iowa-born and reared, he secured an education and became active in Chicago and Illinois politics, combining the practical with the theoretical, although never too practical in his theories. His interesting biography appears in this issue in the department of Iowa's Notable Dead.

Merriam loved Chicago, which he called "the capital of the middle empire." He served on numerous governmental agencies and advisory boards, and advocated many liberal policies. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Robert LaFollette, Sr., and when a candidate for mayor of Chicago, his campaign was managed by Harold Ickes.

One of Merriam's proposals when he was serving as alderman upon the city council of Chicago, was to create a forty-ninth state comprising the area of that city, thereby securing two United States senators and a quota of congressmen for the Windy City. The proposal stirred wide comment in the thirties, and was one of the few movements in the history of the nation to increase the number of United States senators. One other was to divide Florida into two states; another to cut off the southern points of both Illinois and Indiana and the state thus formed be named Jackson, for the population embraced would be mostly southern; and another to divide Texas into several separate commonwealths. All of these suggestions, with the exception of Merriam's, were made by pro-slavery people, who desired to enlarge their power in the U.S. senate.

Another phase of the subject of fixing the size of the U.S. senate had developed when the nation was founded, the large colonies being greatly feared by the smaller. The whole subject of legislative representation was fought over long and stubbornly by delegates from the several colonies in the drafting of the constitution of the United States. Feeling was intense. Several of the smaller colonies flatly refused to become members of the union proposed if it was to be controlled by the more populous states. At no time could agreement be reached that United States senators be apportioned upon the uncertain basis of population. Finally, area representation was achieved, two senators being accorded each state regardless of population, establishing forever small-state advantage, which to a degree is reflected in national political conventions and the electoral college.

No effort ever has been made to overturn the small-state leverage in senate representation upon the area basis. On the contrary, the suggestions that were advanced would have resulted in the creation of more small states.

## Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

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WILLIAM GALLOWAY, industrialist, realtor and civic leader, died at Waterloo, Iowa, November 10, 1952; born near Reinbeck, in Tama county, Iowa, July 11, 1879, son of John and Agnes Wilson; entered the industrial manufacturing field at Waterloo shortly before 1900, using a \$2,000 loan and his natural talents for promotion and marketing; enlarged the production of spreaders, gasoline engines, cream separators and other farm machinery, and grossing thirty-two million dollars in twenty years, his firm, the William Galloway Company at the peak of its business employing more than 900 men and women; his enterprise indicated that at one time in 1917 he signed a million-dollar contract with England for gasoline tractors of an early model, but rising costs during World War I caught him and before he could get them into production occasioned failure to meet the terms of the contract and cost him his personal fortune and eventually the control of his plant in Waterloo; reorganized the business retaining the name Galloway and remaining its president until 1934, and in the years since operated the William Galloway and Sons Company, also branched out into real estate, promoting the development of Cedar Heights, Prospect Hills and Cedarloo Park additions; one of three founders of the Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo, and had a part in establishing the city's annual International Horse show; a charter member of the First Presbyterian church of Waterloo, a member of the Rotary club and the Chamber of Commerce, the latter recently honoring him at a special dinner and presenting him with a plaque praising him for "a lifetime devoted to service and a valued and outstanding contribution to industry;" married Naomi Murray at Amity, Dec. 25, 1907, and survived by four sons, three daughters, sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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PHILIP CHARLES JEANS, physician, specialist in children's diseases, professor pediatrics at the University of Iowa since 1924, and a resident of Iowa City, Iowa, died at Panama City, Panama, October 22, 1952, of coronary thrombosis, at Hotel El Panama less than two hours after arrival by plane; on a tour to Honduras, sponsored by the World Health organization, was to have lectured and visited hospitals in the Panama area, the party in addition to Dr. and Mrs. Jeans included Dr. Stanford Farnsworth, and Nevin Scrimshaw, director of the Central America Pediatrics institute, and met at the airport by a delegation of Panamanian physicians; showed no signs of illness, although



expressed a desire to rest and shortly afterward found dead in his bed; born in Hillsboro, Ohio, January 3, 1883; son of Frank and Anna Maty (Stafford) Jeans; married Grace Whittier Cushing December 22, 1914; a graduate of John Hopkins in 1909, having received his A.B. degree from the University of Kansas in 1904; served on the faculty of Washington university, St. Louis, from 1913 to 1924, rising to associate professor of pediatrics; a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council and belonged to numerous medical associations; with Genevieve Stearns of the University of Iowa, had won the 1946 Borden Award of the American Institute of Nutrition for fundamental contributions in the field of child nutrition and for research on the nutritive value of milk and of certain vitamin and mineral components of milk in the maintenance of infant and child health; had served on the governing council, American Pediatric Society, and the council on foods and nutrition, American Medical Association; a member of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, American Institute of Nutrition, Society for Research in Child Development, Society for Pediatric Research, author of "Prepubescent Syphilis," with J. V. Cooke; with W. Rand and F. Blake, "Essentials of Pediatrics," and with W. M. Marriott, "Infant Nutrition;" survived in addition to widow by one son, Robert Philip Jeans of Los Angeles, Cal., and one brother, Howard S. Jeans, of Altaneda Cal.

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BENJAMIN CLARKE MARSH, charity worker, social reformer and liberalist lobbyist, died at Winter Park, Florida, Dec. 30, 1952; born at Eski Zaghra, Bulgaria, March 22, 1877; son of an American missionary and wife, George D. and Ursula Clarke Marsh; received his B.A. of Iowa, now Grinnell college, 1898, University of Chicago, post graduate, 1899-1900, attended University of Pennsylvania 1902-1905; a member of Phi Beta Kappa; married Elenor B. Taylor in 1916; began his career as a social reformer in the muckraking era of 1902, first as a charity worker, then with the Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, was a correspondent for New York papers during the first Balkan war, 1912-1913; in 1918 became managing director of the Farmer's National Council and active in the People's Reconstruction League. The People's Lobby later supplanted the league; when the 1946 LaFollette-Monroney Congressional Reform bill was passed requiring lobbyists to register, Mr. Marsh was first to comply, styling himself the Nation's No. 1 lobbyist; retired as executive secretary of the People's Lobby in 1950 when the organization was discontinued; its moving spirit since 1928, the organization founded at the suggestion of former Sen. Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin; barnstormed the country on behalf of the Sena-

tor's third-party campaign for the Presidency in 1924; appeared before Congressional committees in behalf of the farmer, the consumer and the small producer; an advocate of public ownership of the railroads, socialized credit, social security and of "taxing the rich;" co-operated with Liberals, New Dealers, Farmer-Laborites and Socialists; an author and contributor to magazines; surviving are his former wife, Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Califon, N. J.; a son, Michael Marsh of Arlington, Va.; a daughter, Mrs. Wallace Scott of Amherst, Mass.; two brothers, the Rev. George L. Marsh of Claremont, Calif., and Robert Marsh of Ojai, Calif.; and a sister, Miss Erna Marsh of Claremont, Calif.; burial was at South Natick, Mass.

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BYRON JAMES LAMBERT, civil engineer and educator, died in Santa Barbara, California, October 29, 1952; born at Argyle, Wisconsin, April 25, 1874; son Furniss and Mary Wesley (Reynolds) Lambert; received his B.Di. degree at State Teachers college, Cedar Falls Iowa, in 1896, and M.Di. in 1897; Ph.B. at the State University of Iowa in 1900; B.S. in civil engineering 1901 and C.E. in 1906, married Helen Leavitt Davison of Waterloo, Iowa, November 8, 1902; served as city engineer of Cedar Falls and Waterloo 1899-1901, chief engineer of the Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Ry. during construction 1901-02; successively was instructor, professor, and head of department of civil engineering at the State University of Iowa from 1902; served as consulting engineer, also general contractor, major of engineers U.S. army from November, 1917 and commanding officer of 3rd Battalion 23rd Engineers in France from March to December 1918; engineer of bridges with 1st army, and honorably discharged January 6, 1919; became lieutenant colonel Engr. O.R.C.; a member of the staff of the State University of Iowa until 1950, although retired in 1944 after 25 years as head of the civil engineering department but continued to teach on a part-time basis, and served as acting dean during the 1935-36 school year; designer of many public projects; planned and supervised the construction of two bridges in Iowa City and invented and patented the steel bleachers in the university fieldhouse; also designed the municipal swimming pool at Iowa City; a member of the Am. Soc. C.E., Iowa Eng. Soc., Am. Soc. Mil. Eng., Iowa Academy of sciences; Soc. Promotion Engineering Education, Iowa City Eng. club; Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, civic associations, Masonic bodies, Methodist church and a Republican; joint author of Lambert & Holt's Elementary Structures in Steel and Concrete, and invented and patented all-steel stadium in 1923; survivors include his wife, four sons, Robert, Sand Point, Idaho; Richard, Santa Barbara; Edward, Ventura,

Cal.; Leavitt, Iowa City, and a daughter, Mary Louise Forward, Penn Laird, Va.

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RUBE McFERREN, attorney, minister and legislator, died at Webster City, Iowa, October 27, 1952; born in Hamilton county, on a farm just north of Webster City, December 31, 1868; son of William D. and Emma A. (Bennett) McFerren, pioneer Iowa settlers who came in 1855 from Ohio to Webster City, then known as New Castle; secured his education in the public schools, the State Teachers college, and the State University of Iowa, and admitted to the practice of law in May, 1890; served as city attorney from 1907 to 1909 and state representative from his county two terms, in 1915 and 1917 sessions; united in marriage August 3, 1892 to Minnie Woolsey, who died three years later and married Minnie A. Klockman in April, 1902, and to this union were born three sons and one daughter—Donald, Robert, Maynard and June, Mrs. McFerren preceding him in death July 9, 1927, and Maynard McFerren killed in Germany in 1942, during World War II action; also was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters; surviving are two sons and one daughter, Donald and Robert, both of Webster City, and Mrs. Ralph (June) McClure of Iowa Falls. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Terry Ann McFerren of Britt and Peter and Mary McClure of Iowa Falls; was author of a work, "Distribution," published in 1940, and also had written a book of poems; a champion of the cause of the farmer in the days of the 1920's, he organized the National Farm League; was also an ordained minister, having served at Duncombe and vicinity.

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ARTHUR H. BRAYTON, newspaperman, civic worker and convention director, died at Des Moines, Iowa, December 23, 1952; born at Ida Grove, Iowa, December 12, 1891; graduated from high school at Lyons, now Clinton, Iowa, and from the University of Wisconsin in 1914; in newspaper work at Marshalltown and Des Moines, 1914-1934, serving in the armed forces in the meantime from 1917 to 1919; engaged in sales promotion and personnel work with Marshall Field & Co., Chicago, 1934-38; served as secretary-manager of the Des Moines Convention Bureau since 1938 until his death; suffered an operation for brain tumor in May of 1952, remaining in critical condition after the operation until death; had engaged in widespread civic activities in addition to promoting and handling conventions in the city, served as general chairman of the Red Cross campaign in Des Moines in 1945, and chairman of the speakers bureau of Polk county in war bond campaigns from 1942 to 1945; in college he was the managing editor of the *Daily Cardinal*

student newspaper, conducted its humor column for three years and also edited the humor section of *The Badger*, the university annual; a member of Delta Tau Delta, social fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity, the Des Moines, Wakonda, Rotary, Advertising and Pow Wow clubs, the Des Moines consistory, the shrine and the Episcopal church; despite his critical illness was elevated from vice-president to president of the International Association of Convention Bureaus during its annual meeting at Washington, D. C., last August; married in June 1919, and has one daughter, Mrs. Russell Smith, of Des Moines, who with his wife, Edna, his mother, Mrs. Frank C. Brayton of Clinton, and two grandchildren survive him.

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WALLACE MERTIN SHORT, clergyman, editor and legislator, died at Sioux City, Iowa, January 3, 1953; born near College Springs, Iowa, June 28, 1866; son of James B. and Eugenia Noe Short, who settled in Page county in 1855 and 1857; grew up on the farm and attended rural school until 22 years of age; graduated from Amity college, Iowa, in 1887; and from Beloit college, Wisconsin, receiving his B.A. in 1893 and M.A. in 1896, working his way through school and receiving Phi Beta Kappa honors; attended Yale divinity school three years; married Mary Eliza Morse of Racine, Wisconsin, 1896, and ordained in the ministry of the Congregational church the same year; pastor Evansville, Wis., 1896-1903; Beacon Hill church, Kansas City, Mo., 1903-1910, First church Sioux City, Iowa, 1910-1914; founder and pastor Central church (independent), Sioux City, Iowa, 1914-1918; founder and editor of the *Unionist and Public Forum* at Sioux City; active in civic matters and labor union and farm affairs, founder of the state Farmer and Labor party in Iowa and served as chaplain of central labor organization while in Kansas City; served as moderator of the Congregational Association of Missouri 1905-1906; member of industrial committee of National Council of Congregational churches of U. S., 1907-1910; mayor of Sioux City 1918-1924; member of Iowa House of Representatives 1931, serving one term as a Republican in the Forty-fourth General Assembly; author of books and magazine articles; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Emily Vesta Hunter, Sioux City, and two adopted sons, Burton Harrison and John Wallace.

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ARTHUR STANLEY GIST, college president, died at Piedmont, California, in December, 1952; born at Marion, Iowa, January 19, 1883; son of the late Rev. William W. Gist, Congregational minister and professor at Iowa State Teachers College, and of the late Mrs. Lillian Hurlburt Gist, who won notice by obtaining a Master of Arts degree from Claremont (Calif.) Col-



lege at the age of 80, after having reared eleven children; received his B.Di. degree at Iowa State Teachers college at Cedar Falls, 1904, and his A.M. at the University of Washington in 1918; married Ruth Palmer June 2, 1928; taught for several years in the public schools, and in 1930 became president of the Humboldt State Teachers college at Arcata, California, continuing in that capacity until two years ago when he retired, but recently had been serving as director of instruction at Golden Gate college; a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Rotary club and the Congregational church; author of Elementary School Supervision, Administration of an Elementary School, Clarifying the Teachers Problems; co-author Teaching and Supervision of Reading (with W. A. King), New Stories from Eskimo Land (with A. H. Eide and R. P. Gist), and Administration of Supervision; editor of five year-books, department of Elementary School Principles, N.E.A.; survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Gist, and daughter, Miss Ruthie Gist of Piedmont; two sisters, Mrs. C. W. Sward of Chicago and Miss Ruth Gist of Washington, D. C., and four brothers, Charles R. and Julian H. Gist of Tampa, Fla., William W. Gist, Jr., of California, and the Rev. Nathan H. Gist of Brooklyn, New York.

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GEORGE ANDREW JOHNSTON, lawyer, farmer and jurist, died at Creston, Iowa, December 6, 1952; born in Wayne county, Iowa, July 1, 1877; son of Andrew Duncan and Sarah Jane Tedford Johnston; received his early education in the schools at Redding and Tingley; married at Redding November 7, 1899, to Sadie Frances Fisher, who survives him; engaged in farming in Ringgold and Taylor counties from 1899 to 1910, maintained interest in farming until his death and owned a Union county farm on which he raised purebred cattle; received his law degree from Drake University in 1912, having served as assistant principal of the Valley High School in West Des Moines from 1909 to 1912, when he began the practice of law in Creston and later associated with J. D. Reynolds there from 1914 to 1920, having served as both city attorney and county attorney; appointed district judge in the Third district in 1932 and served as such the past twenty years, being reelected in 1950 for a term extending through 1954; a member of local civic bodies and Masonic order; the Union county, Third district and state bar associations, the American Hereford association and the Iowa State Hereford association; besides his widow is survived by four children, Mrs. Donald R. Henry of Grundy Center, Mrs. H. A. Shay of Clarendon Hill, Illinois, Capt. Paul F. Johnston, stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, with the U. S. navy, and Elton A. Johnston, an attorney at Corydon; also a brother, Roy Johnston, of Applegate, Oregon, and a sister, Mrs. Viola O'Neil of Creston, Iowa.

EDWARD R. BROWN, attorney and legislator, died at Des Moines, Iowa, November 1, 1952; born at Greenfield, Iowa, November 11, 1876; attended public schools at Greenfield and business colleges at Omaha and Des Moines, graduating in 1895; served as official court reporter two years in the Tenth district under appointment of Judge J. J. Tollerton, of Cedar Falls, also secretary to Gov. Leslie M. Shaw two years; graduated from law department of Drake University in June, 1900, and commenced the practice of law at Stuart, Iowa, remaining there seven years; elected county attorney of Adair county and served two terms; returned to Des Moines in 1914 and was associated in practice of law with James B. Weaver, Jr. fifteen years, and later formed a partnership with Paul G. James and Dring D. Needham; active in politics and served as state representative from Polk county in the Forty-fourth and Forty-seventh General Assemblies; married in 1900 to Kathrine Cowell of Manchester, Iowa; active in bank circles, being a director of the Valley National bank of Des Moines and the Farmers Savings bank of Mitchellville; owned and operated farm lands; a member of the Methodist church, Masonic bodies and the Des Moines club; survived by the widow and three brothers, Fred Brown of Oklahoma, Allen Brown of Greenfield and Harry G. Brown of Des Moines.

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GEORGE SPENCER WRIGHT, attorney, nature lover and collector, died at Council Bluffs January 9, 1953; born at Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa, January 21, 1868, son of George Franklin and Ellen E. Wright, the father later moving to Council Bluffs and engaging in the practice of law in the firm of Baldwin & Wright, representing trunk-line railroads centering there; attended the University of Iowa and Columbia university where he finished his law course, then admitted to the bar and joined his father's law firm, which in 1936 was changed to Wright & Kistle; unmarried became something of a social "lion" and entertained lavishly in his palatial home; affiliated with the Elks, the Amercian, Iowa and Pottawatamie county bar associations, and a past president of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Bridge company; served more than 50 years as attorney for the Union Pacific railroad; active in Republican political circles, and served as chairman of the county central committee, on the state central committee and a delegate to the Republican state and national convention; maintained a beautiful flower garden, which with its thousands of tulips was a harbinger of spring for the city; had pride in his home which contained all manner of rarities, including highly valued paintings; survivors include a cousin, Mrs. George H. Mayne of Council Bluffs, two nieces and three nephews.

EMIL A. LARSON, official, insurance man and legislator, died at Red Oak, Iowa, September 21, 1952; born July 20, 1870, in Stanton, Montgomery county, Iowa, of Swedish parentage; acquired his education in the rural schools and the graded school at Stanton; married in 1893 at Bethesda to Emma Wallin, who died August 10, 1951, in Red Oak, to whom were born two daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Wenstrand, Essex, and Mrs. Dorothy Ling of Des Moines, and two sisters, Mrs. Freda Trybom and Mrs. Tina Danbom, both of Stanton, all of whom survive; engaged in the mercantile business from 1892 to 1900, when elected auditor of Montgomery county and re-elected twice thereafter; resigned in 1906 and entered the First National bank at Red Oak as assistant cashier, remaining until 1907, when he became secretary of the Pioneer Mutual Insurance association, formerly the Swedish Mutual, continuing for many years; served as postmaster for several years, the last Republican appointed to that office; elected state representative in 1916, and again in 1918 and 1920; a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran church and had served as a vice-president of the Pioneer Lawmakers association of Iowa.

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SHERWOOD A. CLOCK, attorney and jurist, died at Rochester, Minnesota, November 29, 1952; born August 2, 1879, at Geneva, Iowa; attended high school at Bloomington, Illinois, and received his law degree from the University of Illinois; served in World War I, two terms as county attorney of Franklin county, Iowa, prior to becoming judge of the Eleventh judicial district, serving in that capacity for thirty years; survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Robert A. Coonley of Wheaton, Illinois, and Mrs. Richard Moore of Boise, Idaho, and four grandchildren.

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CHARLES EDWARD MERRIAM, university political science professor, soldier and author, died at Rockville, Maryland, January 8, 1953; born at Hopkinton, Iowa, November 15, 1874; son of Charles Edward and Margaret Campbell (Kirkwood) Merriam; educated in the public schools, and Lenox college, A.B. in 1893, State University of Iowa, A.B. in 1895, Columbia university, A.M. in 1897, and Ph.D. 1900, University of Colorado, LL.D. in 1920; studied in Berlin and Paris, 1890-1900; married Elizabeth Hilda Doyle, of Constableville, New York, August 3, 1901; a docent in political science 1900-1902, associate 1902-1903, instructor 1903-1905, assistant professor 1905-1907, associate professor 1907-1911, professor since 1911 until retirement, at University of Chicago, also chairman of its department of political science; twice served on the Chicago board of aldermen as representative of the seventh ward, 1909-1911 and 1913-17; appointed commissioner on American commission of public information, in Italy, 1913; awarded Order of Commendatore

della Corona d'Italia; also served as a captain in the army signal reserve corps aviation section, in World War I; author of 24 books and many articles and reviews covering a wide range of subjects in the field of government politics and policy, the books including "Public and Private Government," "Systematic Politics" and "Political Power;" a past president of the American Political Science association, and recognized as one of the foremost economists and political scientists in the nation; served as vice-chairman of President Hoover's commission on "Recent Social Trends," and in 1933 appointed a member of President Franklin Roosevelt's national planning board; also a member of President Roosevelt's committee on administrative management which recommended a reorganization of the executive branch of the Federal government in 1937; served also as a member of the national resources board from 1933-43 and as a member of the U. S. loyalty review board in 1947-48; survived by a daughter, Mrs. Orvis A. Schmidt of Washington; and three sons, Charles E., jr., Chicago; John Francis, Omaha, Neb.; and Robert E., a member of the Chicago board of aldermen.

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WILBUR WADE ROBERTSON, publisher and leader in Reclamation development, died at Yakima, Washington, March 29, 1938; born near Blairstown, Iowa, May 23, 1868, the son of James Wakefield and Sarah Cox Robertson, both pioneer school teachers; moved with his parents to Nebraska in 1869, two years after it was admitted to statehood; attended the University of Nebraska, making his way largely by his own efforts, working as a printer on the university paper and the *Lincoln Journal*, where he obtained first-hand knowledge of the mechanics of printing and publishing; engaged later as a reporter at Denver, Salt Lake City, and Portland; left the *Portland Oregonian* in 1891, purchased the *Chehalis Nugget* and was its publisher seven years; purchased the *Yakima Republic* January 1, 1898, acquired the *Yakima Morning Herald* in 1913, and devoted the remainder of his active life to these publications; became one of the leaders in the development of the Yakima valley and influential in establishing national reclamation policies; served by appointment of Governor Hart upon the special state tax investigating committee; deeply interested in education, served upon the local school board, and in 1931 helped draft a new Yakima city charter, which is still in operation; active in all civic movements and a member of the Masonic order, the Elks, and the only honorary member of the Yakima County Bar Association; during residence in Chehalis married Grace Barrett, and they had two children, W. H. (Ted) Robertson, now publisher of the newspapers, and Mrs. A. H. Crum.



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